CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Let us weaken the wretched drug-terror economy: Modi

At the first G20 Summit in Africa, the PM opened the proceedings with a call to rethink global growth frameworks; unveiled four sweeping proposals

JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a revisit of development parameters and a focus on inclusive and sustainable growth as he addressed a session of the G20 leaders' summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Saturday.

He stressed the need for a dedicated 'G20 Initiative' to confront the drug–terror nexus, emphasizing the urgent need to curb the spread and trafficking of dangerous synthetic substances like fentanyl and to dismantle the criminal economy that fuels terrorism.

Speaking at the session on "Inclusive and sustainable economic growth leaving no one behind", he expressed concern over the rapid global proliferation of highly potent synthetic drugs. He warned that substances such as fentanyl pose severe risks to public health, social stability, and security systems around the world.

He urged member nations to adopt approaches that are inclusive, sustainable, and grounded in civilisational wisdom. "India's civilisational values, especially the principle of integral humanism offers a way forward," Modi said.

PM MODI OUTLINES 4 G20 INITIATIVES

The Prime Minister unveiled four major initiatives aimed at advancing global development in his G20 Leaders' Summit speech.

- ***Global Healthcare Response Team:*** Proposing to set up a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, Modi said, "We are stronger when we work together in the face of health emergencies and natural disasters."
- ***Global Traditional Knowledge Repository:*** The Repository, he said, could serve as the foundation for a platform that catalogues eco-balanced and culturally grounded practices from communities worldwide.
- ***Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative:*** Emphasising that Africa's rise is essential for global progress, Modi announced an ambitious skills programme directly aimed at the continent's youth bulge.
- ***Countering drug-terror nexus:*** Raising concern over the global spread of highly potent synthetic drugs, he called for a counter measure designed to bring financial, governance and security frameworks together.

PM announces new trilateral partnership to bolster tech, innov

JOHANNESBURG: The PM announced a new trilateral technology and innovation partnership after a meeting with his Australian and Canadian counterparts on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit. "We are delighted to announce an Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership today," Modi stated in an X post.

Blow to red terror: 37 Maoists surrender in Telangana

HYDERABAD

The Maoist movement suffered a significant organisational setback on Saturday as 37 of its underground cadre, including top state committee members and a large contingent of young women, surrendered before the Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivadhar Reddy in Hyderabad.

The mass surrender, among the largest in a single day in 2025, highlights the increasing pressure on the banned CPI(Maoist) outfit, marking a strategic victory for the state's intelligence-led operations and rehabilitation policies.

The surrendered cadres handed over a substantial cache of weapons, including an AK-47 assault rifle, two SLRs, four .303 rifles, and one G3 rifle, along with 343 live rounds of ammunition to the officials.

Among the key figures who surrendered were Koyyada Sambaiah alias Azad (49), and Appasi Narayana alias Ramesh (both of them were members of the Telangana State Committee of the CPI(Maoist), and Muchaki Somada alias Erra, who was part of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DSZC).

They also handed over a substantial cache of weapons, including an AK-47 assault rifle, two SLRs, four .303 rifles, and one G3 rifle, and 343 live rounds of ammunition.

Azad, who has spent about three decades in the Maoist movement, represents the old guard, which has been part of the organisation's extremist core since 1990s.

The group also included 25 women, many of whom are in their early 20s and cited disillusionment with the ideology, physical exhaustion, and a desire to avail themselves of the government's welfare and rehabilitation schemes as key reasons for quitting the armed struggle.

The surrender comes in the wake of relentless pressure from security forces and follows recent major encounters in the Dandakaranya and South Bastar regions.

In a recent crackdown, the Andhra Pradesh police arrested 50 CPI (Maoist) operatives following an exchange of fire in Maredumilli, which resulted in the elimination of their Central Committee member Madvi Hidma and IED expert Meturi Jokha Rao aka Tech Shankar among others.

'64 Maoists still in the field'

Welcoming the surrenders and announcing rehabilitation support, DGP Reddy said the force is focused on tackling the remaining Maoists

"There are still 64 Maoists hailing from Telangana, who have not laid down their weapons. Of these, nine are believed to be active in the state," Reddy added.

Delhi police bust a major international arms racket, smuggling China and Turkey-made weapons via Pak; drones used to drop consignments

ISI-linked major arms racket busted

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have busted a major international illegal arms smuggling racket that was supplying weapons made in China and Turkey to India.

The syndicate, linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was smuggling high-end pistols from Pakistan into India using drones, officials said. The police arrested four key members of the gang, including a wanted criminal, Mandeep of Punjab, and two of his close aides, Rohan and Monu, both from Uttar Pradesh. The police also recovered 10 expensive foreign pistols and 92 live cartridges.

Mandeep, who is associated with the Sonu Khatri gang, has numerous criminal cases registered against him, including for murder. Investigation has revealed that the consignments of weapons were wrapped in carbon paper, so that they are not detected by scanners and used drones to drop the consignments at designated locations. Members of the gang were then instructed to collect the weapons from these drop points and deliver them to Delhi. These weapons were then supplied to criminals in Delhi and surrounding states, officials said. The main operator is said to be US-based Jaspreet alias Jassa, who maintains direct contact with his handlers in Pakistan, sources said.

The recent suicide bomb blast near the Red Fort in Delhi had killed 15 people and injured many others.

DELHI BLAST

Delhi blast: Court allows accused's plea to meet lawyer

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday allowed the plea of Jasir Bilal Wani, an accused in the Red Fort blast case, to meet his lawyer at the National Investigation Agency (NIA) headquarters, court sources said.

The plea was allowed by Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of the Patiala House Court, they said.

On Friday, the Delhi High Court refused to pass an order to allow the accused's plea, saying he failed to show any order passed by the trial court rejecting his prayer.

Govt ready to establish Fisheries University: CM

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that the state government is prepared to establish a dedicated Fisheries University.

The announcement was made during his inaugural address at the 'World Fisheries Day and Matsya Mela 2025' event organised by the Department of Fisheries in the city. The CM said, "The annual supply limit of diesel for the mechanized boats has been increased from 1.5 lakh litres to 2 lakh litres since our government came to power. Kerosene for native boats is being provided at a discount rate of Rs 35 per litre." "The coastal line of Karnataka stretches up to 320 km as well as 5.5 lakh hectares of inland water resources. The state ranks third in the country in fish production and fourth in fish export. Fishing is the source of livelihood of 10 lakh people of the state," Siddaramaiah said. "To ensure proper running of the department and welfare of fishing families, we made Mankala Vaidya, a coastal doctor, the Fisheries Minister," he said, and lauded the efforts of Vaidya in the development of the department and the fishermen families.

Mankala Vaidya has expressed the government's keenness on the project, highlighting the potential benefits for research, education, and the local fishing community.

Tejas crash: Village mourns loss of brave son

KANGRA (HP)

A pall of grief descended on Patiyalkar village in Nagrota Bagwan tehsil of Kangra district on Friday as news spread of Wing Commander Naman Syal's tragic death in the Tejas aircraft crash during the Dubai Air Show.

The 34-year-old Indian Air Force pilot, known for his sharp skills and adventurous flying spirit, was participating in a demonstration when the mishap occurred. Wing Commander Syal, who hailed from the Nagrota Bagwan area, is survived by his wife, who is also an officer in the IAF, their six-year-old daughter and his parents. As the news reached his native village, relatives, neighbours and locals began gathering at his ancestral home with shock and sorrow.

Relatives and villagers gathered in his hometown, overwhelmed with grief, upon hearing the news of the tragic incident. His uncle, Joginder Nath Syal, said, "People of the village have gathered here and all are very sad…"

Explosive political developments in Karnataka soon: HDK

BENGALURU

Union Minister and state JD(S) president HD Kumaraswamy has hinted at explosive political developments set to unfold in Karnataka soon.

Speaking at the JD(S) Silver Jubilee celebrations in Bengaluru on Saturday, he remarked that judging by the political developments currently unfolding in the state, "unforeseen and unexpected events are likely to occur in the coming days".

He said the situation in the state had reached a point where no one could predict who would take what political stance.

Indirectly referring to the unrest within the ruling Congress, he said, "With political changes happening every day, every moment, it seems very possible that the state may witness a political upheaval within a few months."

He urged party cadres and leaders to remain close to the people and respond to their hardships. People are frustrated with poor governance, rising taxes, and spiraling prices, he said and criticised the financial condition of the state, saying Karnataka's debt had crossed ₹7.50 lakh crore. "Siddaramaiah alone has incurred ₹5 to ₹5.50 lakh crore in loans. Why was such an enormous loan taken? For what purpose? The people deserve an answer," he stressed.

'Will prioritise clearing backlog of cases: CJI-designate Surya Kant

NEW DELHI: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) designate Surya Kant on Saturday said his top priority after assuming office would be clearing the mountain of arrears clogging the Supreme Court and high courts. In an informal interaction with the media here on Saturday, Kant said, "The number of cases has crossed 90,000 in the SC at present. I must target reducing pendency by ensuring optimal utilisation of judges."

LADDU TALES

'Over 20 cr spurious Tirumala laddus sold during 2019–2024'

AMARAVATI

Fresh estimates in the wake of ongoing CBI-led Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe suggest that 20.14 crore laddus prepared in Tirumala between 2019 and 2024 may have been made using spurious ghee.

This figure is based on an analysis of the official procurement records, pilgrim data and SIT findings, adding a new dimension to the contentious adulteration case surrounding the temple's signature prasadam.

The inquiry has revealed that nearly 20.1 crore laddus out of the 48.76 crore prepared during 2019-2024 were made using substandard or adulterated ghee.

Based on the SIT's findings that 42% of the ghee procured by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) during this period had been adulterated, it is to be belived that almost two out of every five of 48.76 crore laddus were made with synthetic and chemically treated ghee, and not dairy-derived fat, during this period.

The SIT has also found that 68 lakh kg of the adulterated ghee—mixed with palm oil, palm kernel oil, and other toxic substances—worth about Rs 250 crore, was supplied by the Bhole Baba Dairy of Uttarakhand and its shell companies. According to TTD Trust Board chairman BR Naidu, these laddus were consumed by around 11 crore pilgrims during their visit to the Sri Venkateswara temple. The temple administration could not differentiate laddus made using pure ghee from those prepared with adulterated ghee as the supplies had been mixed during routine production.

The adulteration came to light last year, hurting religious sentiments of lakhs of devotees, given the sanctity of the prasad. The case is now

Ex-TTD chief rejects laddu adulteration claims

Former TTD chairman YV Subba Reddy has slammed reports that nearly 20 crore laddus prepared in the Tirumala temple between 2019 and 2024 were made with adulterated ghee, calling the claims "misleading" and "politically motivated". Reddy said he is ready to fully cooperate with the SIT probing the matter, but warned that selective media leaks before the completion of scientific tests were "dangerous and misleading." He also criticised Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's statements alleging the use of animal fat in laddu preparation, calling them malicious. He pointed out inconsistencies in the allegations, noting that claims initially referred to vegetable fat but later shifted to animal fat, even as laboratory tests were ongoing. He urged that conclusions be drawn only after SIT completes its investigation, stressing that the matter involves the faith of millions of devotees.

QUICK READ

DK Shivakumar performs Sankalpa Pooja

Hassan

Amidst ongoing discussions about a possible change in the state's Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar performed a special "Sankalpa Pooja" at his residence. The ritual involved bringing the festival idol of Sri Jenukallu Siddeshwar Swamy from the temple in Yadapura, Arsikere taluk, to Bengaluru. Led by priest Yateesh, the idol was transported on a palanquin bus, and Shivakumar, along with his family, offered prayers for fulfilling his wishes. Earlier, on July 26, he had visited the temple and performed a special pooja for "Ishtaartha Siddhi," after which he applied to bring the idol home for the Sankalpa Pooja, with the temple authorities' consent. The priest noted that the pooja is believed to invoke the deity's blessings for success and fulfillment.

Bengaluru's masala dosa wins Italian Consul's heart

Bengaluru

Italy's Consul General in Bengaluru, Giandomenico Milano, expressed his love for the city's iconic masala dosa at the launch of the 10th Settimana della Cucina Italiana nel Mondo. "I can eat masala dosa every day; it's my favourite breakfast in Bengaluru," he said, delighting the audience. The annual event celebrates Italian cuisine globally, with this year's theme highlighting tradition, innovation, health, and sustainability. Michelin-starred Chef Italo Bassi will lead a masterclass at Christ University, and city restaurants will host an Italian food trail starting December 1. Milano emphasized cuisine as both culture and stewardship, blending heritage with modern practices.

Deve Gowda's legacy inspires JDS workers: MLC Javaraigowda

Javaraigowda said Deve Gowda is like a banyan tree supporting leaders and described rejoining Kumaraswamy to rebuild party

BENGALURU

The Janata Dal Secular party marked its 25th anniversary with a grand silver jubilee celebration at Annapoorneshwari Layout in Tippenahalli, under the Yeshwantpur Assembly area.

The event was organized by JDS leaders of the Doddabidakallu ward and saw the active participation of party workers, local leaders and residents.

Addressing the gathering, Legislative Council member T.N. Javaraigowda spoke about the strong political journey of H.D. Deve Gowda. He said the entire country knows how Deve Gowda built the JDS party by facing many struggles and never giving up. He added that even today, Deve Gowda's spirit continues to guide party workers and leaders. He urged everyone to take part in the silver jubilee celebrations and work harder to strengthen the party for the future.

Javaraigowda also shared his personal experience. He said Deve Gowda is like a huge banyan tree in politics, giving support and shade to many leaders like him. He spoke about how he returned to the party and joined hands with H.D. Kumaraswamy to help grow the organization once again.

The celebration created a festive mood in the area. A large stage was set up, and boards showing the party's 25 years of achievements were placed on both sides of the road. Free tea was served from morning to evening, while sweets were distributed to the public throughout the day, spreading joy among supporters and residents.

Many youth and local leaders took part in the program. Youth leader Santosh Javarayegowda, along with leaders like Travel Manjunath, Vijikumar, Chikkanna, Nataraju, Kumar, Byre Gowda, Jagadish, Chandranna, Bakery Basavaraju and Chandrappa attended the event. Citizens from Annapoorneshwari Layout and Manjula Enclave also joined the celebration and shared the happiness of the milestone moment.

Commercial complex above Nagawara Metro station

BENGALURU

The complex will include four floors above the station with offices, shops, co-working spaces, and a 3,225.73-sq.m multi-level parking facility to ease local traffic and parking issues.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has announced a new commercial complex above the upcoming Nagawara Metro station on the Pink Line. The plan aims to blend daily travel with business and shopping facilities in one large connected space. This project is expected to change how people use metro stations in the city for work and leisure.

The complex will have four floors built directly above the station structure. It will offer 23,392.24 square metres of space for offices, shops, and co-working areas. Alongside this, a multi-level parking building of 3,225.73 square metres will be constructed for visitors and office workers. This will help reduce traffic and parking problems in the surrounding area.

BMRCL officials said the first two floors are almost ready in terms of basic structure. Columns, beams, and slabs have already been completed for these levels. Only side walls and finishing work are left. The remaining two floors are expected to be fully built within the next eight to ten months.

The commercial space is planned for premium offices, start-up hubs, and modern retail stores. Special lifts and escalators will directly connect the complex with the metro concourse and platforms. This will make it easy for people to step out of trains and enter workplaces or shopping areas quickly.

The Nagawara station is located near major job centres like Manyata Tech Park and Karle Town Centre. It will also connect with the future Blue Line station meant for airport travel. Both stations will have linked concourses for smooth passenger movement.

This project is part of BMRCL's larger plan to increase its non-ticket income.

The goal is to earn around fifteen percent of total revenue from such commercial spaces. Similar developments are already planned at KR Puram and Majestic stations to support long-term metro growth.

For years forest dwellers played cricket near the reserve, but this year's sudden cancellation angered youth and elders

Min orders report after tribal cricket ban near Nagarhole Reserve

BENGALURU

Karnataka Forest Minister Ishwar Khandre has asked for a detailed report after tribal communities were stopped from playing cricket near the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. Jenu Kuruba and Kadu Kuruba families had organized a two day cricket tournament near Nanachi Gate in Kutta area of Kodagu district, close to the forest border.

Forest officials cancelled the matches following instructions from Chief Wildlife Warden Prabhash Ray, citing safety and wildlife protection concerns inside the sensitive zone.

For more than ten years, forest dwellers have been playing this annual cricket event on the fringes of the reserve without major incidents or damage to wildlife.

However, this time the sudden cancellation has led to anger and disappointment among tribal youth and elders. They questioned why forest officials allowed cricket facilities inside the forest core area earlier, while stopping local people from playing near the boundary.

They referred to Bandipur Tiger Reserve Field Director S Prabhakaran, who had built a concrete wicket with nets inside the core area for staff recreation. He had also set up a practice pitch inside a Bandipur hostel, which was reportedly used by forest officers.

Tribal leaders said this shows double standards. They stated that if officers can play inside the forest, forest settlers should not be stopped from playing on the edge. Senior tribal leaders J K Thimma, Shivu and Nagpur Punarvasathi president J B Bojamma voiced strong objections to the decision.

They said the tournament was not just a sports event but also a cultural gathering that united their communities every year.

The sudden ban has hurt their emotions and trust in the system.

Minister Ishwar Khandre has directed the Nagarhole Field Director to submit a report to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Officials said further steps will be decided after reviewing the report. The tribal communities have now demanded equal treatment, respect for their traditions, and a fair decision that protects both wildlife and their rights.

IEEE conference showcases sustainable engineering innovations

KENGERI

The 9th IEEE International Conference on Computational Systems and Information Technology for Sustainable Solutions was jointly organized by RV College of Engineering and Florida International University. The two-day program was held at the RV College of Engineering auditorium on the Bengaluru–Mysuru main road and brought together experts, researchers and students from across the world.

The conference mainly focused on advanced engineering for green, intelligent and safe systems. International speakers shared their knowledge on new technologies, recent progress in engineering fields and practical ways to build sustainable solutions for the future. The sessions helped young researchers and students understand how technology can be used to solve real-life problems linked to environment, safety and smart systems.For this ninth edition, the organizers received a total of 1,237 research papers from different countries. After a strict peer review process, 619 papers were selected for presentation. Out of these, 462 research papers were officially registered under the main theme of advanced engineering for sustainable and intelligent systems. This showed the growing interest in eco-friendly and smart technology among researchers around the world.

Many well-known experts and education leaders attended the event. They included Prof. Dr. Jean Meyer, President of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Germany; Prof. Dr. Stephen Weyers; Rafi Mohammed, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Maximus India; Prof. Dr. S. S. Iyengar from Florida International University; Prof. Dr. Vinod Rajamani from FH Dortmund, Germany; and Prof. Dr. Achim Forster.

Banaswadi footpaths shine during Project Walkaluru

BENGALURU

Clean, wide and walkable footpaths gave a pleasant surprise to residents of Banaswadi as the fourth "Project Walkaluru" footpath walk was successfully held. The event was led by the Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner, Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar, along with citizens, volunteers from The Ugly Indian, and officials of the corporation.

More than 60 people joined the 5-kilometre walk, which was carried out completely on footpaths. Participants included local residents, walkers from other parts of the city, and civic staff. The walk was flagged off near Uttam Sagar Junction and went through Dodda Banaswadi Main Road, 7th Cross and 100 Feet Road up to the Outer Ring Road, before looping back. The full walk lasted around two hours.

The main aim of the walk was to check how safe and smooth the footpaths are for people. Before starting, participants guessed they might face around 25 to 50 problems on the route. However, the actual findings were much better than expected. There were no garbage dumping points and no open urination spots along the stretch. Only 10 to 12 major issues were found in total. These included three broken footpath slabs, two two-wheelers blocking paths, two cars parked wrongly, one pile of construction material, and two shop or vendor encroachments.

Most of the footpaths were clean, wide and easy to walk on. More than 50 walkers shared that they could walk comfortably without major problems. At the end, participants gave feedback using a three-level rating system, and most rated the route as satisfactory. Commissioner Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar praised the efforts of citizens and volunteers.

GBA reveals costs for B'luru road sweeping machines

BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has uploaded the full rate details for hiring mechanical sweeping machines on its official website. These machines will be used for daily road and footpath cleaning across the city.

Each machine is expected to clean at least 40 kilometres of roads every day. The cost includes fuel, tyres, batteries, operator salaries, cleaners' wages, a supervisor, maintenance, and all operating expenses. It also covers one hook loader, two six-cubic-metre dust containers, water tanker services, and the collection and transport of loose stones, leaves, plastic, paper, glass, rubber, and other small street waste.

The machine must operate with full cleaning staff, along with support for footpath sweeping. The rate includes driver costs, labour charges, daily maintenance, spare parts replacement, and unexpected expenses. A yearly price rise of 5 percent has also been built into the estimate. The total ownership and operating period is planned for seven years. All rates are listed without GST.

According to GBA estimates, the total cost per kilometre in the first year is Rs. 894.53. This includes Rs. 563.68 for operation and maintenance and Rs. 330.85 for lease financing costs. The annual cost is calculated based on 14,400 kilometres of sweeping per year.

The sweeping machine itself costs around Rs. 2.69 crore before tax. Over seven years, the total cost for one machine, including maintenance and operations, comes to around Rs. 10.5 crore.

For 46 machines, the total project cost is estimated at Rs. 613 crore. This amount includes manual footpath labour, GST at 18 percent, and a tender premium of 5 percent. The GBA says this project will improve road cleanliness and reduce manual burden on workers across Bengaluru.

Train services altered on Nov 25 for Belandur–Karmelaram route

BENGALURU : South Western Railway has issued a press release about major train changes due to non-interlock work for doubling the Belandur Road–Karmelaram section and a new crossing station at Huskur. This work will affect services on November 25, 2025, and some trains will be cancelled, diverted or regulated. Three MEMU services from Yesvantpur to Hosur, Train Nos. 66563, 66585 and 06591, will be cancelled on that day. In the opposite direction, three MEMU services from Hosur to Yesvantpur, Train Nos. 66564, 66586 and 06592, will also remain cancelled on the same date. Passengers are advised to plan their travel accordingly to avoid inconvenience. Several express trains will take different routes and skip many stations. The SMVT Bengaluru–Ernakulam Express and SMVT Bengaluru–Karaikal Express will run via Krishnarajapuram, Jolarpettai and Salem, avoiding stops including Belandur Road, Karmelaram, Hosur and Dharmapuri. The Vande Bharat Express services between Bengaluru Cantonment and Coimbatore will also follow the diverted route via Bangarapet and Tirupattur.

ANIMAL CARE EXCELLENCE

Bannerghatta Park celebrates number of wildlife births

ANEKAL

Bannerghatta Biological Park has experienced one of its most successful years, recording a remarkable rise in visitors and an impressive number of animal births between February 15 and November. The park's thriving breeding season has highlighted its growing conservation efforts and improved care systems.

The year began on a positive note when tiger Arunya gave birth to two healthy cubs on February 15. This was followed by the birth of two wild cat cubs on March 5. The lion population also flourished, with lioness Savitri welcoming a cub on May 30, and lioness Sania giving birth to four cubs on June 11. These additions reflect the strong health and stability of the park's big cat families.

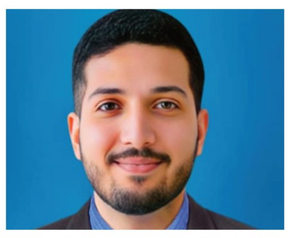
The herbivore section saw success as well, with the bison population expanding through three births on May 28, August 28, and October 6. Park officials have planned new strategies to manage and protect this genetically diverse herd.

Birdlife at the park also thrived. Several species hatched healthy chicks throughout the year, including a Painted Stork (February 13), Rose-ringed Parakeets (March 31 and April 3), a Silver Pheasant (April 6), Sun Conures (August 3 and December 5), and a Rainbow Lorikeet (July 27). These arrivals have enriched the park's already vibrant bird population.

Park authorities said the successful breeding season reflects strong ecosystem health and dedicated management practices.

With its growing wildlife family, the park is encouraging citizens to adopt animals through its animal adoption program, helping support long-term conservation.

QUICK READ



Udupi youth dies in Thane accident

Udupi

A 25-year-old youth from Kalmady, Udupi, died in a motorcycle accident in Thane late Friday night. The deceased, identified as Inish Lasrado, reportedly met with an accident while riding and later died from his injuries. He had been working in a multinational company in Thane for the past three years. Inish was also active in the ICYM unit of Kalmady church and took part in many church programs. He is survived by his parents, Apollo and Irene, and his sister, Ashwini.

5-year-old boy dies after falling into swimming pool

Karwar

A five-year-old boy died after falling into a swimming pool at a home stay in Jali, Bhatkal, Uttara Kannada district. The deceased has been identified as Mohammad Mustaqeem Sheikh, son of Maulavi Shahidullah from Bhatkal. The child was playing with family members when he accidentally slipped into the pool and died on the spot. It is reported that Shahidullah had taken the home stay on lease. Police have registered a case at Bhatkal Police Station and begun further investigation.

Two ISIS terrorists get six-year jail term

Shivamogga

An NIA court has sentenced two ISIS members, Jabeevulla and Nadeem Faizal from Shivamogga, to six years in jail for a trial blast near the Tunga River and the stabbing of a Hindu youth. Each has also been fined ₹59,000. Four years ago, they carried out a test explosion and later stabbed a man named Prem Singh from Rajasthan on Independence Day in 2022. They confessed during interrogation. A case was registered at Shivamogga Rural Police Station.

PM's Udupi visit confirmed; Roadshow dropped from schedule

PMO confirms Modi's November 28 Udupi visit, outlining his travel plan, temple darshan, and revised security-focused schedule

UDUPI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Udupi has been officially confirmed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The confirmation came through a letter sent to the Chief Secretary of Karnataka, informing the government about the Prime Minister's planned arrival and his schedule in the coastal temple town on November 28.

As per the official programme, Prime Minister Modi will start his journey from New Delhi and arrive at Mangaluru International Airport at 11:05 am. Within the next five minutes, at 11:10 am, he will move to a helicopter and head towards Udupi. He is expected to land at the Adi Udupi helipad by 11:35 am.

Earlier, a road show in Udupi was planned as part of his visit. However, the PMO has now cancelled the road show due to undisclosed reasons. With this change, the Prime Minister will directly head to the famous Sri Krishna Math at 12 pm. Here, he will have darshan of Lord Krishna and take part in the Laksha Kanta Geetha Gayana programme. This religious programme is expected to witness the participation of a large number of devotees singing devotional hymns together.

After completing his visit and interactions in Udupi, the Prime Minister will leave the Adi Udupi helipad at 1:35 pm and return to Mangaluru Airport. From there, he is scheduled to fly to Goa at 2 pm for further engagements.

The PMO has instructed the state administration to ensure full security arrangements and make all the necessary preparations for his smooth travel. Local authorities, police personnel, and officials from various departments have been directed to coordinate well in advance. The visit of the Prime Minister has generated excitement among the people of Udupi, who are eagerly waiting to welcome him to the historic temple town.

Central government transfers key highway to NHAI

MANGALURU

The Central Government has approved the transfer of the Surathkal–Nanthur–BC Road port-connect highway to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). This follows the continuous efforts of Dakshina Kannada MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta to find a long-term solution for the damaged and poorly maintained stretch.

This section, located within the New Mangalore Port Trust limits, is one of the busiest transport routes in the region. It plays a key role in the movement of goods and daily travel in Mangaluru. However, the road had been in a very poor condition for years, causing regular traffic problems, slow movement of trucks, and safety concerns for drivers and passengers.

Earlier, the road was under National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a special purpose agency. Due to lack of funds, unclear responsibility, and delayed repairs, its condition worsened. Understanding the seriousness of the issue, MP Chowta actively pushed for the road to be handed over to NHAI, which has more authority and better resources.

He met senior officials of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways several times and requested urgent action. His efforts also helped secure ₹28.58 crore for initial road improvements. He personally explained in Parliament how better road management would support port operations and boost coastal logistics.

The Surathkal–Nanthur–BC Road stretch will now be maintained by NHAI, ensuring better road quality, safety improvements, and smoother transport for people and goods

With the approval now granted, NHAI will prepare a Detailed Project Report for safety upgrades, repair works, and smooth traffic flow. Thanking the Central Government, MP Chowta said the decision will greatly benefit the people, transport workers, and businesses of Dakshina Kannada.

D'sthala Panchayat takes action against single-use plastic violations

BELTANGADY

The Dharmasthala gram panchayat has taken strict action against shopkeepers using single-use plastic in temporary stalls within its limits. Dharmasthala is declared a single-use plastic-free zone, and the rule applies to all commercial establishments, including small shops and roadside vendors. Officials said that despite repeated instructions and awareness efforts, a few shop owners continued to use banned plastic materials while conducting their business.

To enforce the rule, the panchayat carried out an inspection drive in the marketplace. During the inspection, officials checked several stalls and found some vendors still using disposable plastic bags and covers. The panchayat immediately imposed fines totalling ₹5,700 on the violators. All the plastic items detected during the raid were seized to prevent further usage.

On the other hand, shopkeepers who followed the rules by providing alternatives such as cloth or reusable bags were appreciated. Officials expressed that such responsible behaviour helps keep Dharmasthala clean and environmentally safe, especially since the region receives a high number of visitors and pilgrims every day.

The operation was led by Panchayat Development Officer Gayatri P, second-grade accounts assistant Prameela.

DYFI accuses Karnataka Congress government of targeting poor meat traders and demands reopening of Kudroli slaughterhouse soon

DYFI leaders protest against closure of Kudroli slaughterhouse

MANGALURU

The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) has accused the Karnataka Congress government of implementing the policies of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) by using police to target poor meat traders. The organisation protested in front of the Kudroli slaughterhouse, demanding its immediate reopening and condemning what they called an attack on people's right to consume processed meat.

Speaking at the protest, DYFI District President B.K. Imthiyaz said that cases under the cow protection law are being filed unfairly against traders who depend on meat business for their livelihood. He said many traders are being arrested and jailed, and in some cases, their houses are being seized, causing fear among families who rely on cattle, goat, and sheep meat sales.

He argued that the controversial cattle slaughter ban law, introduced by the previous BJP government, has a communal agenda. Instead of removing that agenda, the Congress government is continuing it, he alleged. According to him, the authorities have not allowed the official slaughterhouse in Kudroli to function due to political pressure.

Imthiyaz said the Kudroli slaughterhouse plays an important role in providing legally processed meat to consumers in Mangaluru and other parts of Dakshina Kannada. Keeping it closed forces traders to depend on illegal slaughter, which creates more legal trouble and public confusion. He also raised doubts about whether right-wing groups are influencing the district administration's decisions.

DYFI leaders said denying people access to processed meat violates their food rights. They demanded that the district administration immediately take responsibility and restart operations at the slaughterhouse. If the government fails to reopen the facility within the next fifteen days, the DYFI warned that they will organise a large protest march called "Corporation Chalo" against the Mangaluru City Corporation.

Villagers slam quarry operations for defying HC order

BANTWAL

People of Tenkakajakaru area under Badagakajakaru gram panchayat in Bantwal taluk are facing serious problems due to illegal quarry activities. The area, which is located in a beautiful forest region, has become dangerous because of regular stone blasting. Villagers say the quarry continues to operate on private land within the forest zone even though there is a High Court order stopping such activities.

Residents allege that stones are blasted using gelatin three times every day. This loud blasting has filled the surroundings with stone pieces and dust. Many houses are covered in debris, causing fear among families. They say the continuous explosions are damaging homes and putting lives at risk. People are especially worried about the safety of schoolchildren.

MAHE celebrates convocation with focus on AI and innovation

UDUPI

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), an Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University, held the first day of its 33rd convocation at Manipal. A total of 1,648 students received their degrees, including 64 PhD scholars. Four outstanding students were honoured with the prestigious Dr TMA Pai Gold Medal for their academic excellence.

The chief guest, Prof Ananya Mukherjee, vice chancellor of Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, addressed the graduating students. She spoke about the changing world shaped by artificial intelligence (AI). She said that AI is growing fast and has great power, but it also brings many challenges. She pointed out that both MAHE and her university have contributed to building India's future by promoting innovation and high-quality education.

She stressed that human judgment should always be the most important factor, even with advanced technology. She said, "AI is often seen as a saviour or a danger. But both ideas forget the value of working together. Use AI to support decisions, not replace human thinking. Moral choices must always remain with people."

MAHE vice chancellor Lt Gen (Dr) M D Venkatesh, VSM (Retd), shared his vision for the university's future. He highlighted progress in advanced digital infrastructure, new campus buildings, and a large 32-megawatt solar plant. He said MAHE is preparing students to succeed in a fast-changing world driven by sustainability and technology.

A special moment of the event was the release of a first-day postal cover to mark the 90th birthday of Dr Ramdas M Pai, chancellor of MAHE.

Two shipyard workers arrested for alleged Pak espionage

UDUPI

Two men working at the Cochin Shipyard unit in Malpe, Udupi district, have been arrested for allegedly spying for Pakistan. The accused, identified as Rohit and Santri from Uttar Pradesh, were reportedly sending secret information about ships to contacts in Pakistan for more than one and a half years.

Police said the two were working on a contract basis at the Malpe facility through Sushma Marine Private Limited. Their job allowed them access to technical details of ships and equipment. According to the complaint, they shared confidential information, including ship-related technical data, through WhatsApp with individuals linked to Pakistan. Investigators say the information they leaked could be harmful to national security.

The case came to light after the CEO of Cochin Shipyard noticed suspicious activities and filed a complaint with Udupi police. Based on the complaint, police conducted a detailed investigation and arrested the duo. They were later produced before the court for further legal process.

Officials also revealed that the accused were receiving money in return for the information they provided. The exact amount and the complete network behind the spying activities are still under investigation. Police are now checking whether more people are involved in the case or if the information has already reached dangerous groups.

Cochin Shipyard is an important defence-linked company. It builds tugboats for the Indian Navy and also manufactures commercial ships for private organizations. Because of this, officials believe the accused may have gained access to sensitive details that should not reach foreign hands.

The arrests have raised serious concerns about security and the need for strong monitoring of contract workers in defence-related projects. Police and intelligence agencies are continuing the inquiry to trace the full extent of the espionage network.

Puttur temple's new ghee deepa offering wins devotees' support

DAKSHINA KANNADA

The famous Mahalingeshwara Temple in Puttur has introduced a new ritual offering called Ghee Deepa, and the response from devotees has been extremely positive. On the very first day of launching this new service, the temple received contributions worth ₹30,000, giving a good boost to its revenue.

Ghee Deepa is a popular offering tradition found in several temples in Kerala. Now, the same practice has been adopted in Puttur, and devotees are happily participating in this spiritual service. With this introduction, the temple believes it will continue to receive more support from the community, helping its development and daily operations. The cost of offering one ghee lamp is ₹100. Many devotees consider this a meaningful and affordable way to show devotion. People especially choose this offering during festivals, praying for peace, prosperity, and good health. Temple authorities say that during special occasions, more than 100 ghee lamps are offered in a single day. This increase clearly shows how much faith people have in the new ritual.Public representatives, special guests, and celebrities visiting Puttur for events or personal reasons are also taking part in the Ghee Deepa offering.

Tourist littering threatens beauty of Surimane Falls

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chikkamagaluru, known as the coffee land of Karnataka, attracts a number of tourists daily. People come from different parts of the state and country to enjoy hills, green forests, and waterfalls. But the behaviour of some visitors is causing anger among local people who want to protect nature.

Surimane Falls in Kalasa taluk is a popular tourist spot. However, the surroundings of this scenic waterfall are now facing a serious waste problem. Beer bottles, plastic items, food covers, clothes, and other waste are being thrown carelessly by visitors. This has created an unpleasant sight and is affecting the natural beauty of the area.

Locals say that the garbage is spoiling the environment and harming water bodies. Many tourists enjoy their time, but they leave behind a mess without thinking about the side effects. The waste collected near the falls can pollute water and become dangerous for both humans and wildlife.

STRAY DOG CONTROL

DC orders strong action against stray dogs

MANGALURU

A district-level committee meeting was held in Dakshina Kannada to implement the Supreme Court's directions to control the stray dog menace in the region. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Darshan H presided over the meeting and ordered strict measures.

The DC instructed officials to conduct a complete census of stray dogs under city corporations, urban local bodies, and other local administrations, and submit a report soon. He said stray dogs found inside educational institutions, hospitals, sports stadiums, bus stands, railway stations, and tourist spots must be caught, sterilised, and shifted to authorised shelters. Measures should also be taken to stop dogs from entering these public places again, and a monitoring officer must oversee the work and report regularly.

Every three months, inspections must be carried out inside and outside such public locations to ensure stray dogs are not seen there. Nodal officers were ordered to stop people from feeding stray dogs in public areas like bus stations, railway stations, depots, parks, and terminals. Taluk officials were asked to identify land for building dog shelters.

The DC also directed the National Highways Authority, Public Works Department, and local bodies to shift wandering cattle from highways to shelters. A highway patrol team must be formed with helpline numbers displayed for public use.

Mangaluru City Corporation must fix specific timings and places for feeding stray dogs and issue notices, with legal action against violators. At least 100 dogs should be sterilised in each taluk at the initial stage.

All departments must submit compliance reports by December 15, as an affidavit has to be provided to the Supreme Court by December 20.

QUICK READ

My heart wishes to see D.K. Shivakumar as CM: MLA

Mandya

Mandya MLA Ganiga Ravikumar said that he sincerely wishes to see D.K. Shivakumar becomes the next Chief Minister. Speaking in Mandya, he praised Shivakumar's dedication to the Congress, recalling how he even went to jail for the party and stood by him during his personal hardships. Ravikumar added that both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are equally important leaders whose contributions to the party are immense. He noted that around 140 MLAs support both leaders and expressed confidence that the situation will settle positively soon, with everyone committed to the high command's decision. Clarifying recent speculation, Ravikumar said his visit to Delhi was only for court-related matters and to request two ministerial posts for Mandya district, not to discuss current political issues.

Ayyappa devotee goes missing at Sabarimala

Kolar

A devotee from Kolar who had travelled to Sabarimala in Kerala has been reported missing. Amresh, a resident of Nootuve village in Malur taluk, had gone for the darshan of Lord Ayyappa but did not return, leaving his family deeply worried. According to relatives, Amresh is speech-impaired, which has made the search even more challenging. They stated that he went missing soon after entering the main entrance of the Sabarimala temple. The family has appealed to the public to inform them or authorities if anyone spots him.The incident has caused concern among locals as well, and efforts are underway to trace the missing devotee.

Yatindra supporter's outburst against BEO sparks controversy

A Yatindra supporter in Mysuru verbally abused and manhandled a BEO

MYSURU

In a shocking incident from Nanjangud in Mysuru district, a supporter of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son, Yatindra, was caught on video verbally abusing and manhandling the Block Education Officer (BEO), Mahesh. The video, which has gone viral on social media, shows the individual, identified as Kumar from Bilugali village, publicly hurling offensive and derogatory remarks at the officer.

The incident occurred outside a Congress KDP (Karnataka Development Programme) meeting chaired by Yatindra in Nanjangud. Kumar, whose wife serves as a member of the Gram Panchayat, reportedly claimed authority in the village and acted aggressively toward officials. The outburst was reportedly triggered because a government primary school in Bilugali had not appointed a guest teacher to the position Kumar demanded.

Local residents and education department officials have expressed outrage over the incident. They condemned the display of intimidation and unprofessional behavior toward a government officer performing official duties. The viral video has sparked debates over the growing trend of political influence being used to intimidate administrative staff, raising concerns about safety and protocol in public service.

Authorities are reportedly reviewing the incident and considering appropriate action against Kumar for his misconduct. Meanwhile, social media users and local community members have called for stricter measures to prevent harassment of government officials and ensure that administrative decisions are not influenced by political or personal pressure.

The episode highlights tensions between political supporters and public officials and has drawn criticism for promoting lawlessness. Officials have urged political leaders and their supporters to maintain decorum, respect legal procedures, and refrain from taking matters into their own hands, emphasizing that public officers must be allowed to execute their duties without fear or interference.

Land allotment order handed over for setting up STPI

DAVANGERE

A land allotment order for establishing a Software Technology Park of India (STPI) in Davanagere was officially handed over to STPI officials in Bengaluru, marking a key step toward setting up the tech hub

The process to establish a Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centre in Davangere has moved a step forward, with officials formally handing over the land allotment order. As directed by District In-charge Minister S.S. Mallikarjun and MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun, Davangere Deputy Commissioner G.M. Gangadhar Swamy officially handed over the sanctioned land document to STPI authorities in Bengaluru.

The handover took place on the second day of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025. In the presence of the Vision Davangere team, the Deputy Commissioner submitted the land allotment order to Aravind, the Central Director General of STPI, marking an important milestone in the project's progress.

Earlier, STPI Regional Director Sanjay Tyagi and his team had visited Davangere two months ago to inspect potential locations. After evaluating the sites, they identified a two-acre plot at Vaddinahalli—located along the national highway near Davangere city—as highly suitable for setting up the STPI unit. Based on their recommendation, the land was reserved for the project with the approval of Minister S.S. Mallikarjun.

The establishment of the STPI centre is expected to boost the region's technological growth, encourage IT investments, and generate new employment opportunities for local youth.

Present during the ceremony were STPI Regional Director Sanjay Tyagi, Hubballi Cluster Additional Director Shashikumar, and members of the Vision Davangere team, including Veeresh Patel, Dr. N.C. Prashanth, L. Satish Kumar, and M.T. Vinay. Entrepreneurs from Invest Davangere, including Nagaraj Reddy and Rajesh, also attended the event, expressing optimism about the future of the district's IT ecosystem.

Transport Dept offers 50% rebate on pending traffic fines

CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka Transport Department has announced a 50% discount on pending fines related to traffic e-challans and DSA cases. These cases, registered between 1991–92 and 2019–20 for violations under the Motor Vehicles Act and related rules, can now be settled at half the penalty amount.

The department has provided a window from November 21 to December 12, 2025, for vehicle owners to clear these long-pending dues. Officials stated that this opportunity aims to help citizens resolve old cases smoothly and reduce the backlog of unresolved traffic violations.

Regional Transport Officer Bharat M. Kalesinghe urged vehicle owners to make full use of this special concession period and complete the settlement of their pending cases.

Awareness drive highlights importance of personal hygiene

CHITRADURGA

A special awareness programme on Adolescent Scientific Understanding and Personal Hygiene was held on Friday at the Vani Sakkare Government First Grade College in Hiriyur. The event aimed to educate young girls about the physical, emotional and psychological changes that occur during adolescence, while also stressing the importance of maintaining good hygiene and healthy habits.

Dr. Smita Yadav, Medical Officer from Adivala Primary Health Centre, led the session and delivered an informative talk. She explained in detail how teenage girls undergo various hormonal and bodily changes, and how these shifts can influence their mood, behaviour, and overall wellbeing. She emphasised the need for students to recognise these changes as natural and to approach them with awareness and confidence.

During her interaction, Dr. Yadav highlighted key aspects of personal hygiene, such as menstrual cleanliness, proper sanitation practices and the importance of using clean, safe hygiene products. She also spoke about balanced nutrition, adequate water intake, regular exercise and sleep routines that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Her guidance was aimed at helping adolescent girls make informed choices and develop habits that support long-term health.

The students participated enthusiastically, engaging in discussions and asking questions about issues they commonly face. Their active involvement made the session more meaningful and helped them clarify several doubts.

Supporters perform Tulabhara wishing DK Shivakumar to become CM

TUMAKURU

In Tumakuru district, a group of ardent supporters of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar performed a special Tulabhara ritual, praying for him to become the next Chief Minister. The event took place at the Shani Temple in Pavagada town, where devotees offered 91 kilograms of sesame seeds as part of the traditional ceremony.

At a time when political competition for leadership positions is intensifying in Karnataka, Shivakumar's followers in Pavagada chose a unique spiritual gesture to express their hopes. They offered the Tulabhara ritual seeking relief from what they believe are astrological obstacles—specifically Shani and Kuja doshas—that could hinder Shivakumar's rise to the Chief Minister's post.

Along with the main ritual, the devotees also performed a special oil abhisheka to the Navagrahas in the temple. Through these offerings, they prayed for the smooth progression of Shivakumar's political journey and success in the ongoing power struggle within the state.

The programme saw participation from several local supporters, including former Taluk Panchayat member Hanumantarayappa, DKS Fans' Association president Kallarajanahalli Govindaraju, retired teacher Chikkanna from Arasikere, as well as Umapati, Harish and many others. Their collective involvement showcased the strong grassroots admiration Shivakumar continues to enjoy in the region.

'CM and DCM are ruining Cong Party'

SHIVAMOGGA

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Rashtrabhakta Balaga convener K.S. Eshwarappa launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, alleging that both leaders are jointly responsible for "pushing the Congress towards self-destruction." Speaking to reporters, he said that development has completely disappeared from the state's agenda and the government has become preoccupied with internal power struggles instead of governance.

According to Eshwarappa, the Congress is politically surviving only in Karnataka and Telangana across the entire country. But even in Karnataka, he claimed, the party is now facing a major setback. The ongoing tussle for the Chief Minister's post between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar has created deep divisions, and the internal rivalry, he said, is weakening the party from within. He further added that the people of Karnataka have already begun rejecting the Congress, and it is only a matter of time before the party collapses in the state.

When asked about the recent controversy surrounding a Bhagavad Gita programme held at Kuvempu University, Eshwarappa said that those opposing the event likely have not read the Gita properly. If they did, the scripture itself would answer all their doubts and questions, he insisted. The Bhagavad Gita, he said, is universal and does not promote any form of discrimination. Eshwarappa added that discussions will be held with those who raised objections, and efforts will be made to bring them into confidence through dialogue and understanding.

Sarabi River clean-up drive worth ₹10 cr to begin in Jan

BHATKAL

A major clean-up project for Bhatkal's historic Sarabi River will begin in January 2026 and is expected to be completed by March, according to senior Irrigation Department engineer Anand Kumar.

Anand Kumar visited Gausia Street, Khalifa Street and the Daronta area to personally inspect the condition of the river.

During the visit, he spoke with local residents and public representatives to understand their concerns and gather suggestions regarding the project. He later held a meeting with former municipal council member Kaisar Mohtisham, Fayaz Mulla, Altaf Karoori and other city municipal officials to discuss the details of the river-cleaning plan.

Members of Majlis-e-Islah wa Tanzeem were also present during the inspection. The organisation's president, Inayathullah Shabandri, general secretary Abdurraqeeb M.J. Nadvi, advocate Syed Imran Lanka, and Maulvi Taimoor Gawai participated actively in the review.

A team of senior and junior engineers from Bengaluru and Karwar accompanied Anand Kumar during the assessment. They reviewed the stretch of the river that requires desilting and cleaning, and noted the encroachments and waste accumulation affecting water flow.

Officials stated that the project, estimated to cost ₹10 crore, is aimed at restoring the river's natural flow, preventing flooding, improving sanitation in surrounding areas and enhancing the overall environment. Local residents expressed hope that the clean-up will help revive the river's ecosystem and benefit the community.

The authorities assured that the work will be carried out efficiently with public cooperation and regular monitoring to ensure timely completion before the monsoon season.

Ancient Megalithic Menhirs discovered

KUNDAPURA

Archaeologists have identified two Megalithic Menhirs in the Kundapura region during recent explorations by the Adima Kala Trust, Udupi. The findings were made at Hilkod village on the Neralekatte–Ajri road and at Mavinakere in Kenchanur village, according to a press statement issued by Prof. T. Murugeshi, archaeologist and founder trustee of the organisation.

The Mavinakere menhir, locally known as Nilskal, stands about 112 cm tall and is slightly inclined towards the north-west. The Hilkod stone measures around 135 cm in height. A small test excavation below the Hilkod menhir yielded fragments of red and cream pottery, believed to belong to a later period.

Menhirs or Nilskals are prominent stone markers associated with burials of the Megalithic period, generally seen in many parts of South India. They are often revered by local communities as sacred markers, with people identifying them with folk deities such as Bhootappa, Bobbarya, Pili Chamundi, Chowdi and others.

Prof. Murugeshi said the newly found stones appear to belong to the final stage of the Megalithic cultural phase in the Kundapura region. While the earliest group of similar monuments in nearby Nagara of Hosanagara taluk dates to around 800 BC, the Hilkod and Mavinakere menhirs are estimated to be from 300 BC to the early second century AD, marking the concluding phase of this cultural tradition.

MATERNAL–CHILD HEALTH TRAINING

Training held on strengthening maternal and child health

CHITRADURGA

A one-day training programme on maternal and child health was recently conducted at the Javanagondanahalli Primary Health Centre in Hiriyur taluk.

The session was organised jointly by the District Health and Family Welfare Department, ICMR, KHPT and St. John's Hospital, aiming to strengthen healthcare awareness among frontline workers.

The training was inaugurated by Dr. Rangaswamy Naik, Administrative Medical Officer of the health centre, who symbolically launched the programme by watering a sapling. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Naik highlighted the importance of prioritising the health of mothers and children, stressing that early identification of high-risk pregnancies is crucial for ensuring safe motherhood. He explained the need for timely registration of pregnant women, regular antenatal check-ups, and proper monitoring to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

Dr. Naik also emphasised that nutritious food plays a key role in safeguarding the health of both mother and child. He encouraged health workers to guide families on balanced diets, hygiene practices, and early detection of complications. Community coordinator N. Umesh from the ICMR team addressed the participants and underlined the role of community-level health workers in improving maternal and child healthcare outcomes.

The training saw active participation from several groups including ICMR team members Shruthi, Abbas and Venkappa; Health Inspector Manjunath; laboratory technicians; pharmacy officers; primary health supervisors; community health officers; ASHA workers; Anganwadi workers and other staff members. The interactive session helped equip them with updated knowledge and practical skills required to support mothers and children in rural communities.

QUICK READ

Scholarship applications invited for Ediga Community

Chitradurga

The J.P. Narayanswamy Foundation in Bengaluru has announced scholarships for meritorious students belonging to the Ediga community. According to the Chitradurga District Arya Ediga Association, eligible students are invited to submit applications. Students pursuing any degree, postgraduate course or B.Ed in the academic year 2025–26 can apply. Only those who scored above 65% in the 2024–25 examinations will be considered, with preference given to economically weaker candidates. Applicants must be residents of Karnataka. Required documents include a BPL card, Aadhaar, address proof, student ID, bank details, current year's fee receipt and certified mark cards of the last three years. Applications can be downloaded from jpnp.org.in and must be submitted by 25-11-2025. For details, contact 8310536214 or 7676626413.

Kolar to host 44th State Masters Athletics games 2025

Kolar

The 44th State Level Masters Athletics Games 2025 are set to take place at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Stadium in Kolar on December 20 and 21. Organized by the Kolar District Masters Athletics Association, the event is open to men and women aged 35 and above. According to Karnataka Masters Athletics Association Secretary H.C. Shanmugam, this competition will also serve as the selection trial for the state team that will participate in the National Masters Athletics Games scheduled in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, from January 28 to February 1. Interested athletes must submit the prescribed application form and complete registration by November 30. For further details or queries, participants may contact 9448620688.

Daiva's guidance brings unity across religions: KV Prabhakar

KV Prabhakar highlights how divine guidance unites people, offering hope and courage amidst caste, religious, and social divides

MANGALURU

In times when humans are divided and isolated by the boundaries of caste and religion, the guiding light of Daiva (divinity) has the power to bring everyone together and illuminate hearts, said KV Prabhakar, media advisor to the Chief Minister.

Speaking at an event organized by the Umesh Pambad Honorary Committee, Jarappa Pambad Memorial Committee, and Arasu Dharma Jarandaya, Bunt and Varahi Temple, Prabhakar lauded state award-winning Umesh Pambad and others for their selfless contributions. He emphasized that divine words have always offered solace during life's hardships and suffering.

Prabhakar highlighted Umesh Pambad's dedication, noting that he set aside government work to serve divinity, spreading comfort and hope to numerous families through his spiritual guidance. He praised the Congress government under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for recognizing such devotion by awarding the Karnataka State Award.

"Divinity acts as a pillar of support and guidance for families," he said. Acquiring and honoring this guiding power is a hallmark of South Karnataka's cultural richness. He remarked that divine inspiration instills courage even in the most helpless, offering hope and equality to those without mentors or support.

Prabhakar also noted Pambad's unwavering commitment to temple rituals, including leadership roles in Ananta Padmanabha Temple and other major shrines, demonstrating dedication and integrity recognized by the community.

He urged people to safeguard the art of divine dance amid modernization and ensure the livelihoods of performers are respected. Highlighting the role of Rishabh Shetty in bringing global attention to these traditions through cinema, Prabhakar said, "The relationship between divinity and common people is like that of a mother and child—a unique feature of Tulu Nadu's cultural identity."

'Diversity, unity, and equity are India's core strength'

Jairam Ramesh highlights India's inherent diversity and inequality, urging educated youth to promote unity, social equity, environmental protection, and women's empowerment

TUMAKURU

Rajya Sabha MP and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh on Friday asserted that diversity and unity, coupled with the continuous fight against inequality, form the very "DNA of India," and warned that any erosion of national cohesion could jeopardize the country's existence itself.

Delivering the Foundation Day address at the 14th anniversary celebrations of Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (SSAHE) in Tumakuru, Ramesh told students and faculty that in a nation as vast and varied as India, the responsibility falls heavily on educated youth to protect diversity, bridge social, economic, and political disparities, and champion environmental conservation.

"True progress of the nation is possible only through unity, social justice, and the intelligent utilization of human resources," he said, adding that unchecked pollution of air, water, and land, combined with India's population projected to touch 300 crore by 2050, poses a grave threat to future generations. Recalling the devastating 2004 tsunami, he called for urgent proactive measures to ensure sustainability.

The Congress leader lauded SSAHE for achieving more than 60% female enrolment across its programmes, describing the empowerment of women as indispensable for India to emerge as a global superpower. He particularly appreciated ongoing efforts to expand educational access for rural girls, including plans to establish a dedicated science university for girls in nearby Madhugiri.

During the convocation ceremony presided over by SSAHE Vice-Chancellor Dr G. Parameshwar, degrees were conferred on 1,086 graduates:

- 14 students received PhD degrees
- 664 were awarded undergraduate and postgraduate engineering degrees
- 372 received MBBS, MD, and MS medical degrees
- 34 earned BDS and MDS dental degrees

New office-bearers of DK Working Journalists' Union take charge

MANGALURU

The Dakshina Kannada Working Journalists' Union (DKWJU) held the installation ceremony of its 2025–28 district executive committee at the Press Club Mangaluru on Friday, marking the beginning of a new administrative phase for the organisation. The event saw the participation of senior officials, journalists, and members from across the district, reflecting the union's strong presence and growing influence.

Chief guest Khader Shah, Senior Deputy Director of the Department of Information and Public Relations and the election officer, congratulated the newly elected team and praised the union's enduring commitment to professional welfare. He highlighted the DKWJU's efforts to support journalists in both urban and rural areas and expressed confidence that the new committee would continue to strengthen the organisation's role in protecting press freedom and media integrity.

Former President Anand Shetty administered the oath of office to the new committee members, including President Pushparaj B.N., General Secretary Rajesh K. Poojary, Vice Presidents Muhammed Arif Padubidri, Wilfred D'Souza, and Rajesh Shetty, Treasurer Vijay Kuthyar, and Secretaries Suresh D. Palli, Siddiq Neeraje, and Satish Ira. Shetty also urged members to stay united and contribute actively as the union approaches its golden jubilee year.

State Executive Committee Member Srinivas Naik Indaje took oath from outgoing state committee member Jagannath Shetty Bala, while former district president Harsha administered the oath to the district committee.

Outgoing president Srinivas Naik expressed pride in the union's statewide recognition as a model organisation. New President Pushparaj B.N. assured that welfare schemes, insurance initiatives, and professional training programmes would continue, with renewed focus on organisational growth. Several members were also sworn in as district executive members.

Athena Hospital director R.S. Shettian passes away at 65

MANGALURU

R.S. Shettian (65), the Administrative Director and Chairman of Athena Hospital and Athena Education Group, passed away on Friday. He had served in various leadership roles in both private and non-profit sectors. Shettian was also elected as the National Treasurer and Trustee of the Indian YMCA, becoming the first person from Karnataka to hold this post in the organisation's 158-year history. He was also a member of the CSI Shanti Cathedral in Balmata.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and a large circle of relatives.

Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader expressed deep grief over Shettian's demise, praying for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family during this difficult time.

MLA demands release of crop loss compensation

BIDAR

BJP State Secretary and Bidar MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale has urged the authorities to immediately release compensation for farmers affected by excessive rainfall in Bedar South, Bedar, Basavakalyan, Hulsuru, and Humanabad taluks. He emphasized that many farmers in these regions have not yet received the relief funds despite repeated complaints through in-person visits and phone calls.

According to officials, the first tranche of ₹140 crore for approximately 1.80 lakh farmers was scheduled for release, and the district administration has initiated the disbursement process. However, a significant number of farmers are still waiting for the aid. Dr. Beldale expressed dissatisfaction over the delay and neglect in helping distressed farmers.

He also pointed out that the additional ₹8,500 per hectare announced by the government has not yet been disbursed, and the current compensation being provided comes only from the Centre's NDRF funds, with no support from the state government. He criticized the government's policy of limiting assistance to mere announcements rather than providing actual relief.

Dr. Beldale urged that the remaining ₹280 crore in crop loss compensation be released immediately.

Kannada pride shines at Basaveshwara Temple festival

BIDAR

Emphasizing the need for determination to sustain Kannada schools, Suresh Channashetti, president of the District Unit of Kannada Sahitya Parishat, spoke at the eighth Vachana Mantapa and Karnataka State Festival held at Basaveshwara Temple, Gandhiganj on Thursday evening. He highlighted that political leaders must possess the will to preserve and promote Kannada education, and the responsibility to enrich the language in border regions lies with everyone.

Guru Basava Pattadwar from Bhalki Hirematthe Institution praised Dr. Channabasava Pattadwar's contributions to preserving Kannada in the region and said the institution consistently supports Kannada initiatives. Dr. Abdul Khadeer, president of Shaheen Educational Institutions, noted that youth are increasingly distracted by mobile phones and urged parents to guide them toward becoming responsible citizens.

Bharatiya Lingayat Mahasabha District President Basavaraj Dhannoor presided over the event, while Hulsur's Shivananand Swamiji lauded the state festival, emphasizing that award recipients should contribute more to Kannada literature, culture, and heritage. Senior journalist Sadanand Joshi and writer Dr. Renuka M. Swami delivered talks and lectures.

State Festival awardees, including Madivalayya Sali, Dr. Abdul Khadeer, Sadanand Joshi, and others, were felicitated for their contributions. Prominent attendees included Veerashetty Manage, Virupaksha Gadagi, Shivashankar Tokar, Veerashetty Patil Marakal, Rajendra Jonnikeri, and Usha Mirche. Cultural performances included traditional Nadageethe by Shivkumar Panchal, with ceremonies conducted by Baburao Dani, Yogendra Yadalapur, Jayadevi Yadalapur, and devotion offered by Shanta Jairaj Khandre.

The festival celebrated Kannada language, literature, and community service, encouraging unity and dedication to preserving Karnataka's linguistic heritage.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division No-2 Babaleshwar- 586 113.
Phone:08355-200020
E-mail ID: eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/MLID-2/PB/Headwork O&M/2025-26/1143
Date:20.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-2
(Through KPP Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, under signed invites two cover system tenders **on percentage basis** from eligible CEIG Super Grade Electrical contractors for AME of Headwork for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27, amounting **Rs.62.76 Lakhs**.

General Category-1] KBJNL/2025-26/HL/WORK_INDENT 1811/CALL-2

Issue and submission of e-tender documents

1. Eligible Contractors will be admitted through e-tender from**22.11.2025 to 01.12.2025 at 5PM.**
2. Last date for receipt of tenders **01.12.2025** up to **5.00 PM.**
3. The bidders should submit their queries if any for clarifications on or before **26.11.2025** up **5.00 PM** positively through following e-mail id-eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com
4. e-tender technical cover-I will be opened in this office **on 04.12.2025** at **11.00 AM.**

For further information and details, visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and KBJNL website www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the under signed during office hours.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/485/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division-2, Babaleshwar

Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No. FD 25 JS (B&R)2025 Date:23.11.2025

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **8.27% Karnataka SDL 2025** issued in terms of the Government of Karnataka, Finance Department Notification **No. FD 01 BMB 2015(P) dated December 18, 2015** will be repaid at par on **December 23, 2025** with interest due up to and including **December 22, 2025.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after December 23, 2025.**

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub-Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **8.27% Karnataka SDL 2025** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate".

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury/Sub-Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/-
Dr. P.C. Jaffer
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources)
DIPR/DD-C.P/3938/KSMCA/2025-26 **Finance Department**

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Phone/Fax: 08226-222027 Email:eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngn@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(One Cover System: Section-1-Technical Bid/Financial Bid)

Tender Notification No 19/2025-26 **Date: 21-11-2025**

Tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Government of Karnataka from eligible registered authorised suppliers in KPPP, Act 1999 and KTPP Rule 2000 in civil Contractor **H/A: 8443 DC Work. Expression Of Quotation for Obtaining Rates for Estimation Purpose for the work: Construction of Dasoha Bhavan (Kitchen work) at M.M. Hills, Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagar District (i.No-29002)** Estimated cost is Rs. 39.00 Lakhs
Further changes in this Notification will be published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.

1)	**Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal**	**From 24.11.2025 to 01.12.2025, 16.00 Hrs onwards**
2)	**Pre-Bid Meeting Date**	**26.11.2025 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM**
3)	**Downloading the tender document - Last Date & Time**	**01.12.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs onwards**
4)	**Date & Time for opening of Quotation**	**02.12.2025 after 16.30 Hrs**

More information can be had from the website: **https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Any other details required can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

SD
Executive Engineer
PWD Division,
Chamarajanagar.

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR: 511:2025-26

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

QUICK READ

EPS slams civic governance 'failure' in Tirupur corporation

Chennai

AIADMK General Secretary and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, has strongly criticised the Tirupur Corporation and the district administration for what he termed a total breakdown of civic governance. He alleged that the city's basic infrastructure and essential services are in disarray. He announced that the AIADMK will hold a massive protest in Tirupur on November 25 to highlight what he described as the government's failure on all fronts. In his statement, Palaniswami said that Tirupur once celebrated as Dollar City had deteriorated into a garbage city under the DMK government.

No need to do politics on Mandir–Masjid: Former Babri mosque litigant

Ayodhya

As Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir announced that he will lay the foundation stone of his proposed 'Babri Masjid' in Murshidabad on December 6, the anniversary of the demolition of the original structure in Ayodhya, former Babri Masjid litigant Iqbal Ansari said on Saturday that there was no need to indulge in politics over Mandir and Masjid. Kabir, who had first announced the proposal for the mosque last year, said the event is expected to draw nearly two lakh people, with more than 400 prominent personalities present on stage, and that construction will take around three years.

Accused wanted in attempt-to-murder case held in Timarpur

New Delhi

A team of the Anti-Gangster Squad (AGS), led by Inspector Krishan Kumar on Saturday arrested 32-year-old accused Rajeev alias Raj in Timarpur. He was wanted in a sensational attempt-to-murder case registered under FIR No. 529/2025 on October 25, under Sections 109(1)/3(5) of the BNS. The accused had been absconding since the incident. According to a statement issued by the AGS, on October 24 at around 7 p.m., an altercation took place between Rajeev and Vishal near the Sulabh Shauchalaya in Sanjay Basti, Timarpur. Acting as a responsible citizen, Rahul, the complainant, made a PCR call to report the quarrel. When the accused learned that Rahul had informed the police, both Rajeev and Vishal became enraged and attacked him with a knife.

Prez Murmu leads nation in honouring Sathya Sai Baba

Murmu attends Baba's centenary celebrations in Puttaparthi, recalls his legacy; hails the orgnisation for its continuous efforts to ensure community welfare

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday graced the 100th birth anniversary celebrations of the revered spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Puttaparthi, turning the centenary event into a nationally significant occasion.

Her visit marked a major highlight of the day-long programmes organised to commemorate the life and teachings of the late guru, whose influence continues to inspire millions across the world.

The President arrived at Sri Sathya Sai Airport around 11:00 am, where she received a warm welcome from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and senior officials. Soon after her arrival, she proceeded to the Poornachandra Auditorium to take part in a special programme arranged as part of the centenary celebrations. Officials described the event as a special session, emphasising its cultural and spiritual depth, reflecting the enduring relevance of Sathya Sai Baba's teachings on compassion, unity, and service.

Murmu had earlier accepted a formal invitation from the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, which oversees the institutions founded on Sai Baba's guiding principles. In her address, she praised the trust's extensive humanitarian initiatives, particularly its free educational institutions, healthcare services, and social service projects that have transformed countless lives. She also commended the Seva Organisations for their tireless commitment to community welfare, recalling how Sai Baba's philosophy of serve all, love all resonated deeply even in her native region.

The Chief Minister's Office ensured meticulous coordination for the high-profile visit, with Naidu arriving early in Puttaparthi to personally receive the President. After the programme concluded, he accompanied her back to the airport for her departure.

President Murmu's participation not only honoured Sathya Sai Baba's centenary but also highlighted the broader national respect accorded to his legacy. The Andhra Pradesh government's decision to declare the centenary a state event further underscores the spiritual leader's profound impact on society.

Jalpaiguri HC orders probe after municipality chief 'forces' woman teacher to do sit-ups

CALCUTTA

A video of Chatterjee forcing a woman teacher perform sit-ups while holding her ears on the school premises went viral, prompting action.

The Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court has ordered a detailed investigation into the alleged public humiliation of a woman school teacher by Saikat Chatterjee, chairman of the managing committee of Suniti Bala Sadar Girls High School and head of the Trinamool Congress–run Jalpaiguri Municipality.

The directive came from Justice Kaushik Chanda, who passed the order, with the official copy uploaded on Saturday morning.

The matter gained widespread attention earlier this month after a video went viral showing Chatterjee forcing a woman teacher to perform sit-ups while holding her ears inside the school premises. The clip led to public outrage, with Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, sharing the video on social media and alleging that workplace humiliation of women by grassroots Trinamool leaders was becoming increasingly common.

Following the incident, the school's headmistress, Sutapa Das, approached the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench seeking the removal of Chatterjee from the managing committee of the institution. The issue was taken up for hearing, during which Justice Chanda expressed sharp displeasure and described the conduct seen in the video as obnoxious.

In response, the court directed the District Inspector of Schools (Secondary) in Jalpaiguri to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a comprehensive report within two weeks. The judge stressed the need for accountability and clarity on whether Chatterjee's actions constituted misconduct warranting removal.

This is not the first time Chatterjee has faced controversy. In 2023, the alleged suicide of a local lawyer, Subodh Bhattacharya, and his wife Aparna, had triggered widespread anger.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin criticised Centre's refusal to approve metro projects, calling the reasons discriminatory and unjustified.

Stalin slams Centre for rejecting Coimbatore, Madurai metro plans

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has sharply criticised the Union government for refusing to approve metro rail projects proposed for Coimbatore and Madurai, alleging that the reasons cited by the Centre were both irrelevant and unjustified.

In a strongly worded letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Stalin expressed deep disappointment and offered to personally visit New Delhi to provide any clarification required for the proposals.

Stalin said the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had returned the concept notes of both metro projects citing demographic shortcomings, a move he argued reflected a discriminatory approach towards Tamil Nadu's development needs. The ministry had reportedly stated that Coimbatore and Madurai did not meet the population criteria set under the 2017 Metro Rail Policy.

Countering this claim, the Chief Minister pointed out that the Coimbatore Local Planning Area had already crossed the 20-lakh population threshold during the 2011 Census itself, clearly meeting the eligibility criteria more than a decade ago. He added that the projected population of Madurai would also surpass the 20-lakh benchmark in the coming years, making the Centre's demographic assessment incorrect.

Stalin further questioned the selective application of these criteria, noting that metro projects in several Tier-2 cities—including Agra, Indore and Patna—had been approved despite not meeting identical demographic benchmarks. Invoking this criterion only for Tamil Nadu clearly shows a discriminatory approach, he wrote, urging the Prime Minister to reconsider the decision in the interest of balanced regional development.

The Chief Minister also assured the Centre that land availability would not be an obstacle for either city, emphasising that the state government was fully prepared to facilitate the implementation of both metro corridors.

Cong launches probe against Chhattisgarh office-bearer

RAIPUR

The Congress party has initiated a probe against its office-bearer in the Chhattisgarh Youth Congress unit for making a pro-Naxal post on social media.

The party high command has set up a two-member committee to probe the matter and take stern action against the office bearer, Preeti Manjhi.

Meanwhile, the Indian Youth Congress has put the organisational position of its National Joint Secretary, Preeti Manjhi, on hold with immediate effect after she posted the controversial message on social media, appearing to express support for dreaded Maoist commander Madvi Hidma, the mastermind behind several high-profile attacks in Chhattisgarh.

The Chhattisgarh unit of the Youth Congress described the post as not merely a social media mistake but a grave issue concerning national security, peace, and democratic values.

Speaking to reporters, Amit Singh Pathania, Chhattisgarh in-charge Youth Congress, said the national leadership has constituted a high-level inquiry committee to probe the matter, and Manjhi's organisational responsibilities stand on hold pending the outcome.

Reportedly, she had used the words Lal Salam for Hidma. Hidma, wanted in several cases, was recently neutralised along with his fellow insurgents in a gun battle with security forces. He was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore and was responsible for several killings and massacres in Chhattisgarh.

MP's MY Hospital acts against nursing officer

INDORE

The Maharaja Yeshwantrao (MY) Hospital administration has suspended a nursing officer, and disciplinary action has been initiated against two nursing staffers after a five-member inquiry committee confirmed the allegation that an expired intravenous (IV) antibiotic was administered to a female patient, officials said on Saturday.

Dr Arvind Ghanghoria, who is the Dean of the MY Medical College, confirmed the disciplinary action against nursing officer Ashma Anjum, who allegedly administered the expired medicine, citing negligence during the patient's treatment. He added that, as part of the action against the two other nursing staff members for the alleged negligence, their annual salary increments have been withheld.

The issue came to notice after a female patient, Roshini Singh, a former national Kabaddi player, was allegedly administered an expired medicine at MY Hospital, where she had been admitted due to post-delivery health complications this month.

The matter gained attention after her husband, Sagar Singh, complained that an expired IV antibiotic (Ciprofloxacin 100 ml) was administered to his wife, who was admitted to Ward 21 last week.

Sagar alleged that not only his wife, but other patients too might have received the same expired doses. He said he did not raise the matter immediately as he was anxious about his wife's ongoing treatment.

Roshini was kept under observation once the lapse was discovered, and she fortunately did not suffer any adverse effects, Dr Ghanghoria told the media. The hospital administration had initially denied the allegation. Later, when Sagar shared video evidence, Dr Arvind Ghanghoria set up a committee to investigate the case.

Jairam Ramesh slams new labour codes, says they ignore core worker demands

NEW DELHI

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Saturday sharply criticised the newly-implemented labour codes, arguing that they merely repackage 29 existing laws without meeting fundamental worker demands such as a national minimum wage of Rs 400 per day and an employment guarantee for urban areas. He also pointed out that the codes lack fully notified rules, preventing their complete enforcement despite being projected as a major reform. India's labour framework saw its most extensive overhaul since Independence on November 21, when the government brought the four labour codes into force.

Covering wages, industrial relations, social security, and occupational safety and health, these codes replace 29 older laws to create a consolidated legislative structure aimed at modernising labour regulation.

While the government claims the new framework streamlines compliance and improves ease of doing business, trade unions continue to express concern about the possible weakening of worker safeguards.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, 29 existing labour-related laws have been re-packaged into 4 codes. This is being marketed as some revolutionary reform when even the Rules have yet to be notified. But will these codes make these 5 essential demands of India's workers for Shramik Nyay a reality?

He listed the demands as a national minimum wage of Rs 400 per day, including for MGNREGA, a right to Health law ensuring universal health coverage worth Rs 25 lakh, an employment guarantee act for cities, full social security for all unorganised workers, including life and accident insurance, and a commitment to end contractual employment in core government functions.

Ramesh referred to the Congress' Shramik Nyay platform, which outlines five justice guarantees for workers and emphasised that the new codes fail to address these commitments.

Criminal arrested after encounter in Bihar's Begusarai

PATNA

A notorious criminal was injured in an encounter with police in Bihar's Begusarai district and arrested. With the formation of the new government in Bihar, police action against criminal activities has intensified.

In a joint operation conducted by the Special Task Force (STF) and the district police, wanted criminal Shivdutt Rai sustained injuries during an exchange of fire on.

The encounter took place between Shaligram and Malhipur villages under the Sahebpur Kamal police station limits. The accused, 27-year-old Shivdutt Rai, son of Rajkishore Rai and a resident of Banahara under the jurisdiction of Teghra police station, was undergoing treatment under police custody.

According to sources, the STF had received a tip-off that the absconding criminal was planning to purchase weapons in the Malhipur area.

Acting swiftly, the STF team rushed to the spot and simultaneously alerted the local police. As soon as the joint team arrived, six criminals on two motorcycles opened fire. The police retaliated in self-defence, during which Shivdutt Rai, who sustained a bullet injury in his thigh, fell to the ground.

Taking advantage of the darkness, his associates managed to escape. During interrogation, Rai provided information that led police to recover a cache of weapons and cash from a house.

MGNREGA RELIEF JAMMU

Centre approves 150 MGNREGA workdays for J&K, LG Manoj Sinha thanks PM Modi for special relief

JAMMU

The Union government has approved an increase in the number of person-days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to 150 in Jammu and Kashmir, following a recommendation from the UT administration. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the decision, calling it a major relief for thousands of families affected by recent natural disasters.

Sinha noted that 1,962 panchayats in the Union Territory had been officially declared flood affected, severely impacting livelihoods across rural areas. The decision will ensure stable income to vulnerable households, relieve families from economic distress and help create durable assets, he said, emphasising that the UT had sought special assistance from the Centre after widespread damage caused by floods, cloudbursts and landslides.

Earlier, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had recommended extending an additional 50 days of MGNREGA employment—over and above the standard 100 days—in calamity-hit regions of the UT for the 2025–26 financial year. Taking this into account, the Centre invoked Section 3(4) of the MGNREG Act to formally approve the additional workdays, citing an anticipated surge in demand for wage employment on public works due to the severe natural calamities.

MGNREGA, one of India's flagship social security schemes, is designed to enhance livelihood security for rural households by guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage employment annually to those willing to undertake unskilled manual labour. The scheme prioritises the most vulnerable groups, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women-headed households and other marginalised communities.

QUICK READ

Drug peddler's property worth Rs 22L attached in J&K

Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday attached the property of a notorious drug peddler valued at Rs 22 lakh in Udhampur district. A police statement said that movable property worth Rs 22 lakh of a notorious drug peddler, Mohd. Yousaf, a resident of Pulwama district in the Valley, was attached under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. During an investigation into a case registered at Police Station Rehambal, the accused, Mohd. Yousaf Joo, resident of Wuyan, Pampore, District Pulwama, was found to have movable property, a Toyota Innova vehicle.

Govt-run SMFCL approves Rs 25,000 cr borrowing plan

New Delhi

Government-run Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) has approved an overall borrowing limit of Rs 25,000 crore, with Rs 8,000 crore earmarked for the current financial year (FY26), it was announced on Saturday. To meet this requirement, the mini-ratna CPSE under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will mobilise funds through leading banks, financial institutions and bond issuances in accordance with its resource mobilisation plan, enabling the Corporation to commence lending operations shortly. SMFCL convened its annual general meeting (AGM) and endorsed a forward-looking roadmap to strengthen the maritime financing ecosystem of the country.

Delhi govt to distribute 10K heaters to curb pollution

New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said that the government is making continuous efforts to control pollution and launched a drive to distribute 10,000 electric heaters to watchmen of RWAs to prevent wood or coal burning during winter. The participation of citizens and communities is the most important in this mission to clean the air. In the same vein, today a large number of RWAs are being distributed electric heaters so that the need to light bonfires in the winter season is reduced and effective control can be exercised over pollution caused by smoke, she said on X.

UP govt unveils roadmap to oust infiltrators from state

The move aims at ensuring that individuals residing unlawfully in India have no direct or indirect role in the country's democratic or electoral processes.

LUCKNOW

Amid an increasingly polarised national debate on the issue of infiltrators—most recently amplified during the Bihar election campaign—the Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled what it calls a clear and actionable roadmap to identify and remove illegal infiltrators from the state.

The move, officials said, is aimed at ensuring that individuals residing unlawfully in India have no direct or indirect role in the country's democratic or electoral processes.

According to senior government sources, the roadmap includes the identification of suspected infiltrators, verification drives, tracking of forged documents, and coordination with central agencies responsible for border and immigration enforcement. The state home department has reportedly issued instructions to district administrations to intensify surveillance and documentation checks, particularly in areas flagged for abnormal demographic changes.

The announcement comes at a sensitive political moment, with the issue of illegal infiltration taking centre stage in the Bihar elections—dominating speeches, debates and social media narratives. The Uttar Pradesh government's move is expected to trigger fresh political reactions, especially from opposition parties that have accused the ruling party of using the issue to polarise voters.

Officials maintain that the initiative is purely administrative and focused on national security. They emphasised that individuals identified as infiltrators will be processed according to law and handed over to relevant authorities for deportation. The government has also clarified that the drive aims to protect the integrity of electoral rolls and prevent any manipulation of democratic institutions.

While supporters of the move argue that strong action is necessary to safeguard internal security and demographic stability, critics warn that such measures may lead to harassment of genuine citizens and minority communities. They have demanded transparency, judicial oversight and strict adherence to due process.

With elections approaching in several states next year, the UP government's announcement is likely to intensify national discourse on citizenship, migration and electoral integrity.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner arrested on bribery charges

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau on Saturday arrested Batala Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vikramjeet Singh Panthey red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 from the complainant. Later, during the search of his residence, an unaccounted Rs 13.50 lakh was recovered. A bureau spokesperson said the complainant had bagged the contract for the repair of roads in the Municipal Corporation, for which two bills of Rs 372,852 were submitted for payment.

The complainant met the Commissioner, who asked him to give 10 per cent commission for clearing them.

The Commissioner said the complainant also did some other works, including a light and sound show in Batala town, for which a bill of Rs 181,543 was pending.

In this way, a total amount of approximately Rs 554,395 was due for payment, the bureau spokesperson said.

Regarding the payment of these bills, he met SDO Rohit Uppal, who said that orders of the Commissioner had to be followed, and the complainant had to give a nine per cent commission as a bribe to release the amount, the bureau spokesperson said.

The complainant took up the matter with the Vigilance Bureau. Acting on it, Bureau recorded his statement at its office in Gurdaspur. After verifying the allegations, the bureau laid a trap and apprehended Panthey red-handed while accepting the bribe from the complainant.

Delhi Police dismantled a trafficking network forcing Indian youth into Myanmar cyber-slavery, arresting two accused involved in scams.

Delhi cops bust transnational cyber-slavery trafficking network

NEW DELHI

The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police has uncovered a major transnational human trafficking network that allegedly pushed Indian youth into cyber-slavery operations in Myanmar. Two key accused — identified as Danish Raja (24) of Bawana, Delhi, and Harsh (30) of Faridabad, Haryana — have been arrested for luring vulnerable jobseekers with false promises of high-paying overseas data-entry jobs.

According to officials, the accused played a crucial role in facilitating the trafficking of Indian youths to scam centres in Myawaddy, Myanmar, a region notorious for large-scale cyber fraud operations run by organised criminal networks. The racket came to light following an October 22, 2025 raid by the Myanmar Military at a scam complex located in KK Park, where several Indians trapped in cyber fraud activities were rescued.

The rescued victims were initially placed in a humanitarian camp before being repatriated to India on November 19 with assistance from the Indian Embassy in Myanmar. The Delhi Police said they worked in close coordination with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs to screen the deportees and confirm whether they had been trafficked for cyber exploitation.

One of the victims, Imtiyaz Babu from Bawana, later approached Delhi Police with a complaint, alleging that he had been misled by promises of a lucrative job abroad. Instead, he said, he was trafficked via Kolkata–Bangkok–Myawaddy, confined in a guarded compound, assaulted and coerced into participating in cyber fraud schemes targeting American citizens.

Based on his complaint, an FIR (No. 289/25) was registered at PS Special Cell under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Immigration Act. An IFSO team led by Inspector Neeraj Chaudhary and supervised by ACP Vivekanand Jha launched an investigation, eventually tracking and apprehending Danish Raja from Bawana.

SIR: Mamata blames ECI after second BLO suicide in Bengal

KOLKATA

The first phase of the SIR began on November 4, and the incident marks the second such death reported this week.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday lashed out at the Election Commission of India (ECI) following the suicide of Rinku Tarafdar, a booth-level officer (BLO) from Nadia district, who reportedly took her life due to overwhelming work pressure related to the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state.

The first phase of the SIR began on November 4, and the incident marks the second such death reported this week.

In a strongly worded post on X, Banerjee expressed deep shock over the death of the 51-year-old para-teacher, who was serving as the BLO for part number 201 of the Chapra Assembly constituency. Profoundly shocked to know of the death of yet another BLO… Rinku Tarafdar has blamed the ECI in her suicide note before committing suicide at her residence today, the Chief Minister stated.

The Chief Minister questioned how many more lives would be lost due to the pressure exerted during the SIR process. How many more lives will be lost? How many more dead bodies shall we see for this process? This has become truly alarming now!! she wrote, demanding accountability from the Election Commission.

According to police, Tarafdar's suicide note described her inability to cope with the administrative pressure of completing BLO-related tasks. I can't handle the pressure, she allegedly wrote, while also clarifying that none of her family members should be held responsible for her death. The note reportedly included direct blame on the Election Commission for the work burden placed on her.

2 arrested for human trafficking in the form of cyber-slavery

NEW DELHI

Two accused involved in human trafficking in the form of cyber-slavery were arrested by the Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) on Saturday, according to the Delhi Police. In a statement issued by the Cyber Cell Dwarka, the IFSO, Cyber Cell Dwarka, has successfully busted a transnational human trafficking syndicate that trapped Indian youths in cyber-fraud operations in Myanmar.

The arrested accused have been identified as Danish Raja, resident of Bawana, Delhi, aged 24, and Harsh, resident of Faridabad, Haryana, aged 30. On October 22, Myanmar Military raided the scam centre in their country and rescued the victims. After temporary refuge at a humanitarian camp, they were assisted by the Indian Embassy in Myanmar and repatriated safely to India on November 19.

In close co-ordination with I4C, MHA, the deportees were closely examined to find out if they were trafficked to Myanmar for cyber slavery. Till now, almost 300 Indians belonging to different States have been repatriated. These individuals have been working in the scam compounds of Myanmar.

CMFRI uses street theatre to rally public against corruption

KOCHI

In a strange coincidence and at a time when concerns about corruption in Kerala have deepened with public outrage now extending even to alleged irregularities in temple administration, the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) conducted a street play at Queen's Walkway to promote public awareness against corruption.

The message comes at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly emphasised the need for a national, citizen-driven anti-corruption movement.

Through initiatives such as faceless tax assessments, digital governance, and stricter enforcement under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Centre has tried to reduce human interface, increase transparency and curb misuse of power.

The event, held as part of Vigilance Awareness Week, drew considerable public attention, transforming the scenic stretch into a platform for civic engagement and moral reflection. Performed by CMFRI staff and research scholars, the street play used satire, impactful dialogues and familiar social situations to depict how corruption slowly infiltrates everyday life from public offices to community systems and ultimately erodes trust and justice.

The play also emphasised that resistance to corruption is not merely an institutional effort, but a collective societal duty. The performance, coordinated by the CMFRI Vigilance Cell, attracted residents, walkers and students who gathered around, turning the informal setting into a public forum.

The audience was seen responding emotionally to scenes that mirrored real-life experiences queues, unfair favours, and exploitation of ordinary citizens.

UTTARAKHAND POLITICAL CHRONICLE

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launches scribe Jai Singh's book on Uttarakhand political history

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Saturday formally released senior journalist Jai Singh Rawat's book, Uttarakhand State's New Political History, describing it as a vital and authentic chronicle of the state's political and administrative evolution since its formation in 2000. The launch event, held at the Chief Minister's official residence, was attended by prominent authors, journalists, public representatives and dignitaries, who congratulated Rawat for his extensive and meticulous work.

According to an official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, the book offers a comprehensive record of Uttarakhand's political landscape, administrative shifts and major milestones over the past 25 years. Divided into five sections, the volume aims to serve as a valuable reference for researchers, students and aspirants preparing for administrative services, providing a structured and factual account of the state's post-statehood developments.

Chief Minister Dhami praised Rawat's effort, noting that despite numerous publications on Uttarakhand's cultural and historical heritage, the task of compiling an analytical and evidence-based narrative of its political journey posed significant challenges. Rawat has compiled the 25-year political journey of Uttarakhand with remarkable coherence and authenticity, Dhami said, calling the book a commendable contribution to the state's documented history.

He recalled that Uttarakhand experienced considerable political instability in its early years, with frequent changes in leadership affecting the pace of development. Rawat's book, he said, presents this entire period with accuracy and clarity, supported by rare documents, archival materials and press clippings.

Emphasising the importance of integrity in historical writing, Dhami said that crafting a reliable political history requires vision, factual precision and courage. He lauded Rawat for capturing the era with what he described as journalistic sincerity and courage, adding that the book stands as an important historical compilation for present and future generations.

Akhilesh Yadav alleges 'conspiracy' to cut 50,000 votes per assembly seat

LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav has once again raised serious objections to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh. He has accused the BJP and sections of the administration of using the process to selectively remove opposition voters.

Launching a strong attack on both the BJP and the Election Commission, Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday alleged that a large-scale conspiracy is going on to delete nearly 50,000 votes in every assembly constituency, particularly in seats where the Samajwadi Party performed strongly in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

He claimed his party has numerous pieces of evidence showing that some administrative officials are working in coordination with BJP leaders to identify and exclude opposition supporters from the voter list.

Referring to the viral audio clip of an SDM from Kannauj, he said it proves that tampering with voter rolls is systematic, not isolated.

Akhilesh Yadav asserted that this alleged strategy is not confined to Uttar Pradesh alone. He said similar patterns are visible in other states, including West Bengal, and cited the example of Bihar, where he claimed around 6 million, 60 lakh votes of the RJD and other opposition parties were removed during voter list revisions. He further criticised the timing and execution of the SIR process, saying BLOs are not going door-to-door and have not been adequately trained.

Conducting SIR during the busy wedding and farming season, he said, makes proper verification difficult and should therefore be deferred. Demanding an extension of the SIR deadline, Akhilesh said, When the BJP started losing on public issues, it found a new way to win elections.

QUICK READ

UN reports rising violence in South Sudan

United Nations

The UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan has been reporting escalating intercommunal violence, cattle raids and aerial bombardment in the country's Upper Nile State, a UN spokesperson has said. The incidents in Ulang and Baliet counties of the Upper Nile State, according to local authorities, have caused multiple casualties, impacting women and children, and displaced around 12,000 people, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing. The United Nations is deeply concerned by the rising violence in Upper Nile State, Dujarric told reporters.

Hundreds of Japanese protestors demand PM Takaichi retract

Tokyo

Hundreds of Japanese people held a protest in front of the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, demanding that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi retract her recent erroneous remarks on Taiwan and offer an explanation and apology. People started to arrive at the rally around 7 p.m. local time, holding signs with slogans such as Retract remarks, oppose war, This is all because of Takaichi, and Takaichi step down, and shouted out slogans like Prevent the resurgence of militarism. At a Diet meeting on November 7, Takaichi claimed that the Chinese mainland's use of force on Taiwan could constitute a survival-threatening situation.

Death toll from heavy rains and flooding rises to 55 in Vietnam

Hanoi

The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in Vietnam's central region has risen to 55, with 13 others still missing, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority reported on Saturday. The floods submerged nearly 80,000 hectares of rice and other crops and killed or swept away more than 3.2 million poultry and livestock. Over 28,400 houses remain inundated, while 946 others have been damaged, according to the report. The economic losses are estimated at nearly 9 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 358 million U.S. dollars), the authority said.

IMF Warns Pakistan of Persistent Corruption-Linked Money Laundering

IMF's new report flags deep-rooted corruption in Pakistan, citing weak accountability, political interference and major risks of money laundering

WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sounded a strong warning for Pakistan, stating that the country continues to face serious vulnerabilities linked to corruption-driven money laundering, with weak accountability mechanisms and political interference severely undermining enforcement. The findings were published in the Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Report released by Pakistan's Ministry of Finance on November 19, shedding light on longstanding structural issues.

According to a Tribune Express report, several sectors remain highly exposed to corruption risks, including banking, real estate, construction, public procurement and activities involving politically exposed persons (PEPs). The IMF noted that proceeds of corruption are frequently concealed through shell companies, misuse of corporate structures and informal money transfer networks. Judicial delays, slow trials and low conviction rates further diminish the effectiveness of anti-money laundering (AML) efforts.

Despite corruption being deeply entrenched, the IMF observed that shifting demographics are transforming public expectations. With more than 60% of Pakistan's 247 million people under the age of 30 — many of them urban, digitally connected and vocal — tolerance for corruption is declining, and demands for transparency, accountability and better governance are growing. The report suggests that political leaders are beginning to recognise these pressures.

The IMF acknowledged that Pakistan has taken steps toward financial oversight, including targeted inspections of banks to ensure compliance with AML requirements, especially during onboarding of PEPs and in generating suspicious transaction reports. However, it stressed that politically sensitive or high-profile cases continue to face interference, eroding investigative independence and public confidence.

The report highlighted significant gaps in the enforcement system. It revealed that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) often takes up to four months to open a formal inquiry in corruption-related money laundering complaints due to administrative vetting, with many cases failing to progress.

Sudan says it is monitoring international peace efforts with 'interest'

KHARTOUM

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has said it is monitoring international efforts to push for a ceasefire in the country. The Rapid Support Forces are following with great interest and appreciation the intensive international movements regarding the situation in Sudan. We declare our full and serious response to these initiatives, the RSF said in a statement on its Telegram page on Friday.

The announcement followed US President Donald Trump's disclosure that he had launched efforts to end the Sudanese conflict, noting the initiative came at the request of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during their White House meeting. The RSF also thanked leaders of the Quartet countries the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt for their mediation efforts.

In September, the Quartet issued a joint statement calling for a three-month humanitarian truce in Sudan, to be followed by a nine-month transitional political process aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement and permanent ceasefire.

On Wednesday, Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council welcomed the efforts of Saudi Arabia and the United States to establish a just and fair peace in Sudan. We are ready to engage with the United States and Saudi Arabia to achieve the peace that our people are waiting for, the council said.

The conflict between Sudan's army and the RSF, ongoing since April 2023, has killed thousands and displaced millions across Sudan and neighbouring regions. In a separate development, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held a phone call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday to discuss the Sudan crisis and bilateral ties.

BAPS and India's UN Mission Mark Milestones at Vienna Event

VIENNA

The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, hosted a special commemorative event at the UN Office in Austria, renewing their shared commitment to the values of peace, service and global cooperation. The gathering marked two major milestones: 30 years of BAPS' consultative partnership with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the 25th anniversary of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj's landmark address at the Millennium World Peace Summit at the UN headquarters in New York. Diplomats and dignitaries from several nations—including Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and the United States—joined UN officials and community leaders to reflect on shared goals and the strengthening of interfaith and international cooperation.

Speakers emphasised partnership as the foundation for enduring peace. Vikram Jeet Duggal, Counsellor at the Indian Mission, highlighted the aligned values of BAPS and the UN—unity, inclusion and collective progress—calling the collaboration a beacon of global goodwill. Peri Lynne Johnson, Assistant Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), praised the event's theme of Light, Peace and Partnership, noting it was fitting that BAPS had brought the UN community together in Vienna. Acknowledging BAPS' humanitarian work, especially for refugees in Ukraine and communities in the United States, she said, Hearing the work of BAPS feels like home again. Yuko Yasunaga, Deputy Director General of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), stressed the importance of collaboration between civil society and public institutions to advance sustainable development. She reaffirmed BAPS' commitment to working hand in hand with global partners. French dignitary Yann Dubosc, Mayor of Bussy-Saint-Georges in Paris, highlighted BAPS' growing contributions to intercultural harmony in Europe, particularly through the upcoming BAPS mandir in Paris.

A journalist and rights defender were arrested on Thursday for staging a protest against the controversial proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment

Pakistan HRC condemnes arrest of Farwa Askar

ISLAMABAD

The Human Rights Council (HRC) of Pakistan strongly condemned the illegal arrest and five-hour detention of its member Farwa Askar and Pakistani journalist Alifia Sohail. According to the rights body, the arrest took place on Friday outside the Karachi Press Club during a peaceful protest against the country's 27th Constitutional Amendment.

It termed the incident a grave violation of freedom of expression and human rights. These protests came after Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill on November 13, following its approval by both houses of Parliament. With his assent, the bill has now become part of Pakistan's Constitution.

Alifia Sohail is a prominent journalist who has fearlessly reported on social issues, while Farwa Askar is a human rights activist who has been struggling to protect fundamental rights in Pakistan. Their arrest and illegal detention is not only a violation of the Constitution of Pakistan but also a reprehensible attempt to suppress journalism and the human rights movement, the HRC Pakistan stated.

The rights body demanded an immediate investigation into the officers involved in the arrest and insisted they be punished.

It also urged the authorities to respect the rights of citizens peacefully protesting against the 27th Constitutional Amendment and to ensure the safety of journalists and human rights activists so that they can carry out their work without fear.

Such actions weaken the country's democratic values and violate international human rights standards, the HRC Pakistan emphasised.

The rights body appealed to all relevant institutions to take the matter seriously and adopt measures to prevent human rights violations in Pakistan.

Earlier this week, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chapter in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province severely criticised the 27th Constitutional Amendment, describing it as a conspiracy against the Islamic Constitution and contrary to national interests.

Piyush Goyal's Israel visit boosts collaboration in innovation, mobility, finance and agritech

JERUSALEM

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal strengthened India's partnership with Israel during a series of engagements on November 20–21, the government said on Saturday. His meetings focused on expanding cooperation in agriculture, technology, innovation, trade and investment, reflecting the growing strategic alignment between the two nations. During his meeting with Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Avi Dichter, Goyal discussed ways to deepen agricultural collaboration. Minister Dichter briefed him on Israel's long-term food-security roadmap, advanced seed-improvement programmes and the country's global leadership in water-reuse technologies. Goyal noted that such expertise holds strong relevance for India's agricultural priorities. He also visited the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation, where he was introduced to Israel's renowned innovation ecosystem. He viewed breakthroughs such as drip irrigation systems, medical stent technologies, the Iron Dome system and new immersive virtual-reality solutions. Goyal described the Centre as an inspiring space that showcases Israel's journey of creativity and social impact. In another engagement, the Minister experienced an autonomous-drive demonstration by Mobileye, reflecting Israel's progress in next-generation mobility solutions. He also visited Kibbutz Ramat Rachel to understand its cooperative lifestyle, sustainable farming practices and community-driven model of development.

SUDOKU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	6		3		9	8		4
1	2		5	4		6	9	
9		3	6		8	5	2	
	1		4		2		3	
4		9	8		3	2		6
	3			6		4		7
3		5		8			6	
2		6	1		5		4	9
7	4		2	9		3		5

8	7	5	9	2	1	3	4	6
3	6	1	7	5	4	8	9	2
2	4	9	8	6	3	7	1	5
5	8	4	6	9	7	1	2	3
7	1	3	2	4	8	6	5	9
9	2	6	1	3	5	4	8	7
6	9	7	4	1	2	5	3	8
1	5	8	3	7	9	2	6	4
4	3	2	5	8	6	9	7	1

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

S Korea-Japan cooperation committees discuss bilateral ties in Jeju meeting

SEOUL

South Korean and Japanese committees involved in public-private cooperation between the two countries held a joint annual meeting on Jeju Island on Saturday, bringing together public and private sector representatives to discuss the deepening of bilateral cooperation.

The 58th joint meeting of the Korea-Japan Cooperation Committee and the Japan-Korea Cooperation Committee was attended by Taro Aso, vice president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and head of the Japanese committee; Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Koichi Mizushima; Jeju Gov. Oh Young-hun; former Seoul Foreign Minister Park Jin; and Lee Dae-soon, chairman of the Korea-Japan Cooperation Committee, among others. In his address, Kim Ki-byung, head of the Korea-Japan Cooperation Committee board, highlighted the significance of hosting the annual meeting in Jeju, calling the island a global tourist city representing Korea.

President Lee Jae Myung delivered a congratulatory message, noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the normalisation of diplomatic ties between Seoul and Tokyo.

At this symbolic milestone, Korea-Japan relations are more mature and solid than ever, Lee said in the message delivered by First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo, calling on the committees to help both countries move toward a more practical and future-oriented partnership.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi also sent a congratulatory letter, saying the cooperation committees have long served as a driving force for exchanges across various private-sector fields. She also wished for the committee's continued development and for further progress in bilateral ties.

HASINA CRITICISES RESPONSE

B'desh fmr PM Sheikh Hasina Mourns Earthquake Victims

ISLAMABAD

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday conveyed profound grief over the widespread loss of life and destruction caused by the powerful 5.7-magnitude earthquake that struck the country a day earlier. At least 10 people were killed and more than 200 injured as the quake triggered panic, structural collapses and significant damage across several districts.

Her statement, released through the Awami League's social media platforms, described the disaster as a terrible earthquake that had inflicted immense suffering nationwide.

Hasina extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. She also used the moment to strongly criticise the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, accusing it of failing to respond adequately to the crisis. This illegal occupying government has no accountability to the people, she said, alleging that authorities were not working actively to ease citizens' hardships and were instead handing over the country and its national resources to foreigners.

Highlighting Bangladesh's vulnerability to natural disasters, Hasina stressed that previous Awami League administrations prioritised inclusive and sustainable development to strengthen the country's resilience.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department reported that the earthquake struck at 10:38 a.m. on Friday, with its epicentre located in Madhabdi, Narsingdi. Classified as a moderate quake, its impact was nevertheless severe. Four deaths occurred in Dhaka, five in Narsingdi and one in Narayanganj. In Dhaka's Armanitola area, three people were killed when a rooftop railing collapsed, according to The Dhaka Tribune.

More than 200 people were injured across Dhaka, Narsingdi and Gazipur.

Health authorities confirmed that multiple victims were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital. Several Dhaka University students sustained serious injuries after jumping from buildings in panic, with at least 10 requiring medical attention.

QUICK READ

Gold Prices Fall in National Capital Market

New Delhi

Gold prices dropped by Rs 600 in Delhi on Friday due to weak global trends. The price of 99.5% pure gold fell to Rs 1,26,100 per 10 grams, said the All India Sarafa Association. Including taxes, it was priced at Rs 1,25,500 per 10 grams. Silver also saw a sharp fall, dropping by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,56,000 per kilogram. In global markets, spot gold was 0.38% lower at USD 4061.91 per ounce, while silver futures fell 2.13% to USD 49.56 per ounce.

Buddy4Study Targets Major Rise in Education Funding

New Delhi

Buddy4Study, a leading education funding platform, is set to cross over INR 900 crore in total education funding in FY 2025-26. This year, it aims to support 60,000 new students and continue helping 30,000 existing scholars. With this, the total number of students supported will rise above 2 lakh, up from 1.40 lakh. Last year, the platform enabled INR 230 crore for more than 60,000 students. Buddy4Study offers scholarships, education loans, and other financial support to help students continue their studies.

Sagarmala Finance Corp Plans Major Fundraise

New Delhi

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) will raise Rs 8,000 crore this financial year to strengthen India's maritime sector. The funds will be sourced from banks, financial institutions and bonds to support port-led development projects across the country. SMFCL is the nation's first Non-Banking Financial Company focused on the maritime industry. Earlier known as Sagarmala Development Company Limited, it was officially registered as an NBFC with the Reserve Bank of India on June 19, 2025. The company aims to boost coastal infrastructure and improve trade capacity.

India–Israel ties fuel innovation, agriculture, and economic growth

India and Israel aim to grow cooperation in technology, trade and agriculture development

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited Israel for the first time to strengthen cooperation in technology, agriculture and trade. He said both nations share trust and strong goals for future growth.

Goyal met Agriculture and Food Security Minister Avi Dichter and discussed modern farming, food safety and Israel's water reuse expertise. He also visited the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation and saw famous technologies like drip irrigation, medical stents and the Iron Dome system.

He praised Israel's innovative spirit and social progress.

Later, Goyal experienced autonomous vehicles at Mobileye and visited Kibbutz Ramat Rachel to learn about cooperative farming and rural development.

He also held talks with Israel's Economy Minister Nir Barkat and reviewed bilateral trade progress. They attended the India-Israel Business Forum with industry leaders. The event included business meetings focused on agriculture technology, artificial intelligence, machine learning, advanced manufacturing and space.

Goyal met Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and discussed increasing investment links and cooperation in financial technology. He also interacted with leading companies working in cybersecurity, water solutions and smart mobility.

A major outcome was signing the Terms of Reference for the India-Israel Free Trade Agreement. Both sides agreed to move ahead for a balanced and beneficial trade deal. Goyal engaged with the diamond industry, which remains a key part of trade between both nations.

The visit showed India and Israel's strong commitment to improving economic ties, expanding innovation and supporting common development aims across important industries. He said the partnership will create more jobs, boost technology growth and support farmers in both countries.

India Updates Base Year For GDP Estimation

NEW DELHI

Government improves GDP calculation using newer data for clearer economic picture

India has announced a major update to how the nation measures its economy. The government will now use 2022–23 as the new base year for calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The updated GDP figures will be released on February 27, 2026.

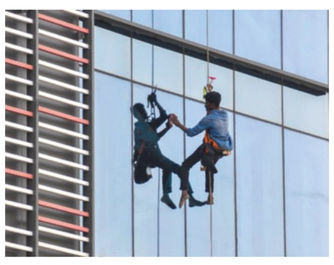
The revision will include new and improved data sources that were not available during the last overhaul more than ten years ago. These include detailed information on active companies, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) filings, corporate annual returns and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises. These additions aim to strengthen measurement of sectors such as private corporations and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), where data gaps have existed.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has set up an Advisory Committee on National Account Statistics. It will guide the inclusion of new data sources and improvements in the methodology for compiling national accounts, helping the numbers reflect the real structure of the economy.

The updated system will also help correctly identify the turnover and output of companies that operate in multiple business areas. Their performance will no longer be placed under only one major activity.

Better coverage of the services sector and activities outside large corporations is expected with the use of LLP information, labour force surveys and business turnover data.

MoSPI has released a discussion paper to explain the planned changes and has invited feedback from experts and stakeholders. Suggestions can be submitted until December 10, 2025. These updates are expected to support strong decision making.



Govt ensures uniform safety and health standards for workers

NEW DELHI

The government has announced that the newly implemented labour laws will ensure equal safety and health standards for workers across the country. With the rollout of the four consolidated labour codes, India has made a major shift in labour regulation aimed at simplifying rules and improving worker welfare.

The four Labour Codes include the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. These codes replace several older laws to reduce confusion and promote easier compliance for businesses.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020, has merged 13 existing Central labour laws into one comprehensive law. This step is designed to bring uniform standards in workplaces across different industries and States. The government says the reform will increase transparency and encourage a safer environment for all workers.

Under the OSH Code, factories with 500 or more workers, construction companies employing 250 or more workers, and mines employing 100 or more workers must set up safety committees. These committees will include representatives from both employers and employees to ensure fair decisions.

Court ruling demands personal repayment after failing discovery orders fully

US Court Orders Byju To Repay Over One Billion

NEW DELHI

A United States court has ordered Byju Raveendran to personally repay more than one billion dollars to lenders, after he failed to follow court instructions. The ruling came from the Delaware Bankruptcy Court on November twenty, twenty twenty five, after petitions were filed by BYJU's Alpha and the US lender GLAS Trust Company LLC.

The judgement said Raveendran did not comply with its discovery order and ignored requests for information several times. The court stated he must pay five hundred and thirty three million dollars on one part of the case, and over five hundred and forty million dollars on other counts. This makes his personal liability exceed one billion dollars.

The court also directed him to provide a full accounting of the Alpha funds and explain any movement of money. Questions sent to his representative received no reply.

BYJU's Alpha was formed when Think and Learn Private Limited, the parent company of Byju's, raised a one billion dollar loan from US lenders. Later, the lenders accused BYJU's Alpha of moving five hundred and thirty three million dollars out of the United States against the loan rules.

GLAS Trust earlier received permission from the court to take control of BYJU's Alpha. Both parties then approached the court to trace the missing funds.

The court noted that Raveendran knew the requirements but still refused to obey. It had issued a contempt order and placed a penalty of ten thousand dollars per day. However, the fine remains unpaid.

The court observed his behaviour shows intention to avoid cooperation. Since penalties failed to bring compliance, it decided a stricter action like default judgement was necessary. Further hearings will continue in coming weeks.

PSUs plan major boost in India's green hydrogen capacity

NEW DELHI

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India's public sector energy companies are taking strong steps to expand green hydrogen production. PSUs have set a target of 900 KTPA green hydrogen capacity by 2030. He highlighted the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCI) launched in April 2025, which ensures hydrogen is produced entirely using renewable energy, with emissions below two kg of CO_2 per kg of hydrogen. Major PSUs like IOC, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL are working on projects to replace grey hydrogen, helping cut imports by nearly ₹1 lakh crore. India also aims to meet 10% of global green hydrogen demand by 2030. Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, ₹17,000 crore incentives support electrolyser manufacturing and large-scale production, supporting India's clean energy goals.

Indian Railways freight crosses billion tonnes boosting economic growth

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has achieved a major freight milestone this year, with total loading crossing one billion tonnes. The latest data from the Ministry of Railways shows that cumulative freight handling has reached 1,020 million tonnes as of November 19. This performance highlights the improving strength of India's economy and the key role rail transport plays in supporting growth.

Coal remains the biggest contributor to this record, accounting for 505 million tonnes transported. Iron ore follows with 115 million tonnes, while cement contributes 92 million tonnes. Other important goods include containers at 59 million tonnes, pig iron and finished steel at 47 million tonnes, and fertilisers at 42 million tonnes.

The Railways also moved 32 million tonnes of mineral oil and 30 million tonnes of foodgrains. Raw materials for steel plants added around 20 million tonnes, with other goods making up the remaining volume.

Daily freight loading continues to remain strong at about 4.4 million tonnes, higher than the 4.2 million tonnes recorded last year. Between April and October 2025, freight volume reached 935.1 million tonnes, up from 906.9 million tonnes in the same period last year.

Global fashion industry expects tough year ahead during 2026 challenges

NEW DELHI

The global fashion industry is preparing for a difficult year in 2026 as companies expect tougher business conditions. A new BoF-McKinsey report says industry leaders are more worried than before due to weak economies, slow spending, and unstable global markets.

Almost half of the fashion executives believe that market conditions will worsen next year, while only a quarter expect any improvement. The biggest concern is that customers are not spending enough. Inflation and global tensions are affecting everyday budgets, especially in the United States, where confidence among shoppers has fallen to its lowest level since 2020.

Trade problems are also increasing. About 40 per cent of leaders worry that new trade barriers and reduced global cooperation will hurt business. North America is seen as the least promising region for growth.

The report predicts that the industry will grow only slightly in 2026, with many factors slowing progress. To deal with rising costs, almost three-quarters of companies plan to increase prices. Nearly half of the brands in North America plan to raise prices by more than 5 per cent.

More companies are now focusing on efficiency instead of only chasing sales. Leaders want to reduce expenses and improve performance. One major opportunity they see is using artificial intelligence more widely. Fashion firms want to use AI in design, supply chain, and daily operations to work faster and better.

Sustainability is another focus area. Businesses are turning to circular models like resale to attract budget-conscious customers. Mid-level brands that offer creativity and good value may perform better than luxury brands, which are facing slower demand and high price pressure today.

Non-American markets drive strong rise in India's shrimp exports

NEW DELHI

India's shrimp exports have grown well in the first five months of the financial year 2025-26, mainly due to higher demand from non-US markets. A report by CareEdge Ratings says the total export value rose 18 per cent year-on-year to USD 2.43 billion. Shipment volumes also increased by 11 per cent, reaching 3.48 lakh metric tonnes. The strongest jump came from non-American countries, where export value increased by 30 per cent to USD 1.38 billion. These markets now account for 57 per cent of total exports, up from 51 per cent last year. Countries like Vietnam, Belgium, China, and Russia contributed nearly 86 per cent of the extra export value, showing the industry's shift toward wider global markets.

Exports to the United States grew only 5 per cent during the period. The slow growth is due to higher tariffs on Indian shrimp. Since early 2025-26, Indian exporters to the US have been paying higher duties, making products less competitive than shipments from Ecuador and Indonesia. Indian shrimp faced an effective tariff of 18 per cent until August, which then sharply increased to 58 per cent. As a result, exports to the US have already started to fall, dropping 35 per cent between July and August 2025.

Despite this pressure, exporters are expanding into new regions through better market access and more approvals for sales to the European Union and Russia. Exports to China grew 16 per cent, while Vietnam and Belgium doubled their purchase value because of strong demand and better compliance standards by Indian firms.

LABOUR REFORMS PROGRESS

New Labour Codes Aim Better Worker Benefits

NEW DELHI

Workers' unions have welcomed the government's labour reform move, calling it a major step for India's workforce. The government has replaced 29 old labour laws with four new labour codes to make rules simpler and more effective for workers across the country.

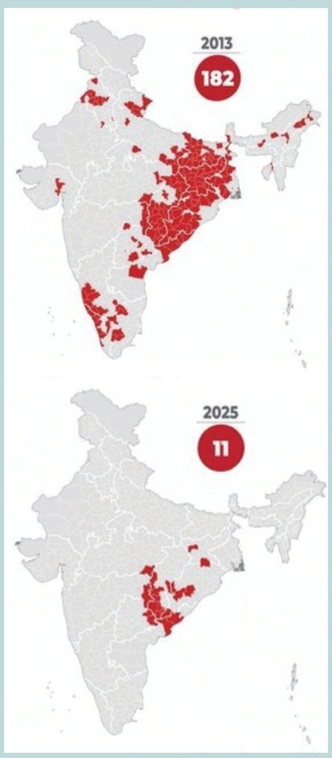
The four codes include the Code on Wages (2019), the Industrial Relations Code (2020), the Code on Social Security (2020), and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020). These aim to ensure fair wages, strong social security, better workplace safety and smooth labour relations.

Girish Chandra Arya, All India Secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), praised the reforms and thanked the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister. He said long-pending labour changes have now been implemented, helping millions of workers. Arya added that constant discussions between labour organisations and the government helped bring useful suggestions into the new system.

He stressed that correct implementation is important so that workers' rights, safety and benefits are fully protected. BMS General Secretary Ravindra Himte said the union will continue supporting workers' welfare and cooperate with the government to ensure the codes are properly enforced.

Leaders from regional labour groups also welcomed the reforms. Gopal Krishna Mallik from Angul Aluminium Mazdoor Sangh said the new rules will guarantee timely wages, minimum wages for all workers, equal pay for women, improved social security and free health check-ups.

BMS District President Prashant Kumar Sahu pointed out a major change in gratuity. Employees will now be able to claim gratuity after just one year of service, instead of the earlier five-year requirement.



Naxal-Free India

Breaking the Red Grip: India's triumph over Naxalism

The menace that had bled the heartland of India for decades, the ideology that held development, security, and human sensitivity hostage, now stands on the verge of complete extinction.

This significant achievement and transformation is neither accidental nor sudden. It is the result of the well-planned, firm, and comprehensive strategies implemented by the Union Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

ELIMINATION OF MADVI HIDMA

The most recent and striking evidence of this is the elimination of the country's most dangerous, ruthless, and strategically powerful Maoist commander Madvi Hidma. His very name had long instilled fear not only among security forces but also within the entire administrative system. Born in the Sukma region, Hidma was a member of the CPI (Maoist) Central Committee and the head of the Battalion-1 of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). Almost every major Naxal attack in the past two decades—from the 2010 Dantewada massacre to the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack—was believed to have been masterminded by him. For years, he ruled the Dandakaranya region with terror and was responsible for several deadly ambushes, including the Darbha Ghati massacre. Such was his infamy that a reward of ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore had been announced on his head. On 18 November 2025, in a precisely executed and exceptionally brave operation by security forces, Hidma, his wife Raje, and six other Maoists were neutralised. The recovery of AK-47 rifles, pistols, and other weapons from the spot confirms that this operation was a decisive strike on the backbone of Naxalism. Hidma's end is not merely symbolic—it is a strategic turning point that has shaken the Naxal network at its core.

'Red Corridor' shrinks

Activities in what was once known as the 'Red Corridor' have significantly shrunk, indicating that the dual strategy of security and development adopted by the central government has begun producing real results on the ground.

Under the "Naxal-Mukt Bharat" campaign, 300 Naxalites were killed this year, while hundreds surrendered or were arrested. These figures clearly show that Naxalism has now lost its ideological and organisational strength.

The recent mass surrenders in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra within just two days reveal that Naxal groups are losing ground even in their traditional strongholds, while tribal communities are gradually moving toward the benefits of government development schemes. The elimination of Hidma has created an irreplaceable vacuum within the Maoist leadership.

A COMPLEX INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT

Like terrorism, Naxalism has long been one of India's most complex internal security challenges. Just as cross-border terrorism threatens national peace and stability, Naxalism—born within—has consistently obstructed the nation-building process. For decades, it was not only a concern for a few states but for the entire country. Today, however, India stands at a turning point indicating that Naxalism is indeed nearing its end. The persistent successes of recent years—the elimination of top commanders, large-scale surrenders, and rapid development in affected areas—prove that the nation is moving toward a new dawn. It is a dawn that promises freedom from fear, violence, and backwardness, and paves the way for enduring peace and accelerated progress.

ROOTS OF NAXALISM

The roots of Naxalism lay in the social and economic inequalities that emerged after independence—land disputes, exploitation, and the neglect of tribal regions. Development never reached several remote areas; government schemes remained on paper, and local communities deeply distrusted the administration. This environment provided fertile ground for Naxal groups to propagate their ideology. They embraced the path of violence in the name of class struggle and armed revolution, using the forests as shields and drawing tribal youth into their fold. Over time, the movement drifted from ideology to a nexus of terror, extortion, exploitation, and bloodshed. Attacks on security forces, obstruction of development work, blowing up schools and bridges, using tribals as human shields, and their hunger for power—this became the true face of Naxalism.

IS RURAL INFRA BOOST WEAKEN NAXAL NETWORKS?

Through the efforts of Modi and Shah, not only has the fight against Naxalism been intensified, but development projects in these regions have also been implemented on an unprecedented scale. Significant progress has been made in building roads, establishing electricity connections, and expanding mobile networks, weakening the hold of Naxal groups. According to government data, since 2014 more than 12,000 km of roads have been constructed in Naxal-affected areas, over a thousand new bank branches have been opened, and extensive work has been done in skill development. These coordinated efforts have uprooted Naxalism from its foundation. The killing of Madvi Hidma—a ruthless and strategically vital leader—is equivalent to breaking the spine of the Naxal movement. He was the chief brain behind their military strategies, and his image had long posed a psychological challenge to security forces.

Role of multilayered strategy

The diminishing of Naxalism is not only due to well-executed security operations but also because of strong political will. When the government declared its resolve to create a "Naxal-Free India," a multilayered strategy was adopted. On one hand, security forces were strengthened with modern technology, better training, and accurate intelligence; on the other, development was accelerated through roads, schools, hospitals, telecom connectivity, and livelihood programmes. The combined force of development and security proved decisive in weakening the roots of Naxalism.

Battle against violent ideology

The new dawn emerging before the nation signifies far more than the silencing of guns. It means that regions left behind for decades will now join the national mainstream. Investments will increase; education and healthcare will strengthen; tourism and local industries will flourish; and people will finally live without fear.

No space for violent ideology

The decline of Naxalism shows that India's democracy is stronger than violent ideology. Armed attempts to seize power ultimately fail. Yet lasting elimination needs more than force: sustained development, empowerment of tribal communities, respect for local culture and resources, and transparent, sensitive governance. With these efforts maintained, the Naxal movement cannot revive.

Near-end ofNaxalism: A security triumph for India

The near-end of Naxalism is not just a security triumph for India—it is a historic turning point. It marks the conclusion of a struggle in which thousands of soldiers sacrificed their lives, millions of citizens endured decades of fear, and the nation paused its development to prioritize security. Today, as Naxalism collapses, this is not merely a government victory—it is the collective victory of India. It is the dawn of a new nation—peaceful, secure, progressive, and self-confident. A dawn that will illuminate the future of generations to come.

Lalit Gargg
Columnist

Who snatched children's space from magazines?

Reading today's magazines, it seems as if childhood has been left behind. Every page, every column, every topic—everything is lost in the world of adults. Fashion, fitness, career, gadgets, politics, relationships—issues related to childhood are buried in the crowd. The question is, why is there less space for childhood in magazines?

BUSINESS PRESSURE ON MARKETING

The main target audience of magazines is adults because they can afford to buy. Even in terms of advertising, children's issues receive little priority. As a result, stories based on the needs, difficulties or joys of childhood do not make space.

CHILDHOOD 'OUT OF TREND' IN A FAST-PACED WORLD

Today's social mindset is fast, sharp and competitive. Magazines also reflect this same race. The innocence of childhood, games, stories, experiences are ignored as 'slow content'.

OVERDOSE OF ADULT CONCERNS

Magazines are filled with the worries of today's adults—stress, career pressure, relationships, health, global issues. Under this weight, the fragrance of childhood is lost. As if childhood stories are not considered important.

DIGITAL INVASION INTO CHILDREN'S WORLD

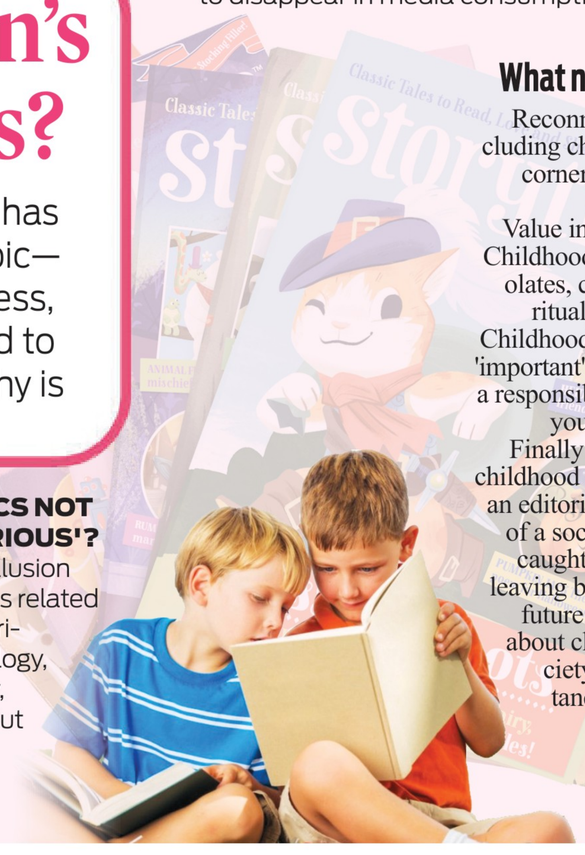
Content for children has now shifted to YouTube, apps or animated platforms. Magazines have assumed that the generation of children does not open the pages of paper. Due to this misconception, they have reduced content for children.

CHILDHOOD TOPICS NOT CONSIDERED 'SERIOUS'?

Magazines have the illusion that the various topics related to children are not serious—such as psychology, child safety, creativity, games, and stories. But in reality, these are the ones that shape the future of society.

Absence of childhood a silent threat!

When childhood disappears from magazines, we forget the questions of the generation that will form tomorrow's society. Their psychological needs, security, creativity, learning capacity—all begin to disappear in media consumption.



What needs to be changed?

Reconnect with childhood: Including children's stories, science corner, psychology, parenting among other subjects.

Value innocence and creativity: Childhood is not just about chocolates, cartoons and toys. It is a ritual, a picture of the future.

Childhood must be considered an 'important' subject. The media has a responsibility to accept even the youngest voices of society.

Finally…The lack of space for childhood in magazines is not just an editorial decision—it is a sign of a social trend. Where we are caught up in our own worries, leaving behind the sparkle of the future. If the media won't talk about childhood, when will society understand the importance of that innocent age?

Dr Vijay Garg
Retired principal & educationist

India storms into T20 Women's Blind WC final

India entered the historic Women's Blind T20 World Cup final after a nine-wicket victory against Australia

COLOMBO

India delivered a commanding all-round performance at the iconic P. Sara Oval on Saturday, securing a place in the finals of the 1st Women's T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind with a resounding nine-wicket win over Australia. The semi-final showcased India's tactical sharpness, composure under pressure, and exceptional teamwork, marking their sixth consecutive victory in the tournament.

After overnight showers left the outfield damp, India's decision to field first proved crucial. The bowlers maintained relentless pressure from the outset, restricting the Australian lineup with disciplined lines and sharp fielding. A turning point came through skipper Deepika's brilliant run-out, which halted Australia's early momentum. Despite the challenging conditions, Australia's B2 batter Julie Neumann fought hard for 25 off 28 balls, supported by B3 players Chanakan Buakhao with 34 from 33 deliveries and Courtney Lewis who added a steady 14 off 14 balls.

However, 20 extras proved insufficient to lift Australia beyond a modest total.

Chasing with authority, India turned the match into a one-sided affair. B3 standout Ganga Kadam set the tone with a fluent 41 off 31 balls, building momentum from the start. The innings' backbone was Player of the Match Basanti Hansda, who showcased remarkable calm and precision while compiling a superb 45 from 39 deliveries. Her assured presence at the crease ensured India's chase remained on track throughout.

B1 striker Karuna applied the finishing touches with a blistering 16 off just five balls, carrying India to 112 and sealing the victory with nine wickets in hand. The win propelled India into Sunday's grand finale, where they await the winner of the second semi-final between Nepal and Pakistan.

With an unbeaten run in the round-robin stage and six straight wins overall, India enter the historic final as the tournament's most dominant side.

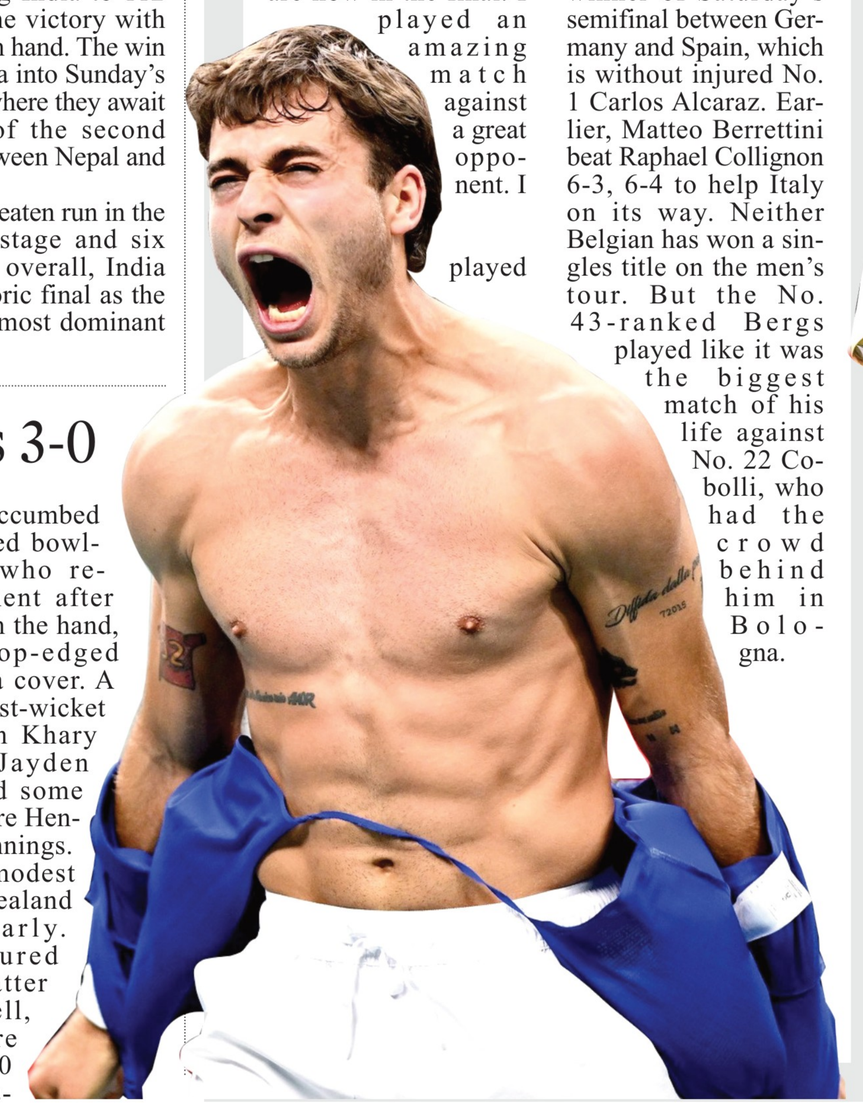
Italy's Flavio Cobolli wins marathon tie-break

BOLOGNA

In an intense game, Italian tennis player Flavio Cobolli came on the winning side to take his team to the final of the Davis Cup as he has defeated Belgium's Zizou Bergs in Bologna. Cobolli tore off his shirt in joy as he defeated the Belgian, and the crowd erupted. The 23-year-old in a more than three-hour marathon contest has taken the game to a seventh match [6-3 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (17-15)] and ended on the winning side. The tie-break is the sixth-longest in the history of the 125-year old competetion. It's really tough to say something about this match. We played for our countries and fought a lot for this win. In the end, I realised my dream and we are now in the final. I played an amazing match against a great opponent. I played for all of [the supporters], for all of my team, my family, for me. It is one of the best days of my life, Cobolli said.

Italy team captain Filippo Volandri said: In my five years as captain I have never seen something like that. It was an unbelievable match. At the end I just said [it was] 5% tactics and 95% heart. This guy gave everything he had – I am really proud. We have an unbelievable bench, Matteo [Berrettini, Cobolli's teammate] lost his voice. But it is not the last match. We celebrate tonight and then we focus on the final.

Cobolli gave Italy an unassailable 2-0 lead without needing the doubles contest. Italy is riding a 13-tie winning streak and meets the winner of Saturday's semifinal between Germany and Spain, which is without injured No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz. Earlier, Matteo Berrettini beat Raphael Collignon 6-3, 6-4 to help Italy on its way. Neither Belgian has won a singles title on the men's tour. But the No. 43-ranked Bergs played like it was the biggest match of his life against No. 22 Cobolli, who had the crowd behind him in Bologna.



Australian Open: Lakshya Sen overpowers Chou Tien Chen to reach final

SYDNEY

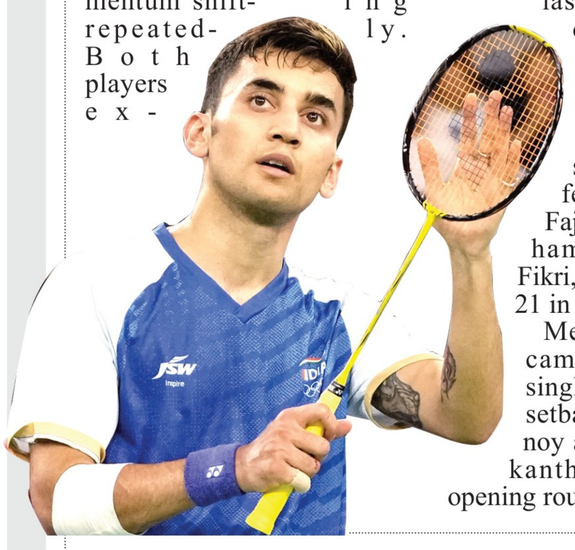
India's star shuttler Lakshya Sen delivered a gritty and inspiring performance at the Australian Open Super 500, overcoming Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in a thrilling semifinal at Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday. In a high-intensity contest lasting one hour and 26 minutes, Sen battled back from a game down to defeat the second seed 17-21, 24-22, 21-16 and secure his place in the championship match.

Sen, still in pursuit of his first title of the season, endured a tough start as Chen raced to a 4-0 lead and entered the opening-game interval ahead at 11-6. Though the Indian tried to narrow the gap, Chen maintained control to close out the first game 21-17. The second game unfolded as a fierce duel, with momentum shifting repeatedly. Both players exchanged slim leads before Sen showcased immense composure at 22-22, winning two clutch points to snatch the game 24-22 and level the match.

With the semifinal finely balanced, Sen seized the initiative early in the decider, marching into the mid-game interval with an 11-6 advantage. His aggression and precision continued as he stretched the lead to 14-7. A costly service fault from Chen extended Sen's cushion to 17-9. Moments later, a sharp cross-court smash handed the Indian eight match points. Although Chen managed to fend off four, he eventually netted a return, sealing Sen's remarkable comeback victory.

Sen is now the lone Indian remaining in the tournament, having earlier defeated compatriot Ayush Shetty in straight games to reach the last four. In men's doubles, top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out after a straight-games defeat to Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, losing 19-21, 15-21 in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, India's campaign in men's singles suffered early setbacks as HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth exited in the opening rounds on Thursday.



New Zealand sweep over West Indies 3-0

HEMILTON

New Zealand sealed a dominant 3-0 sweep over West Indies as their four-pronged pace attack dismantled the visitors again

New Zealand's relentless pace battery delivered another clinical performance in Hamilton, completing a 3-0 clean sweep over West Indies and extending their formidable home dominance to 11 consecutive bilateral ODI series victories. Only South Africa, with 17 straight home series wins, sit above New Zealand in the all-time list of men's ODI streaks, underscoring the Black Caps' exceptional consistency on home soil.

Opting to bat first, West Indies faltered once more, folding with nearly 14 overs unused. Matt Henry spearheaded the attack, claiming 4 for 43 in a spell that ripped apart the top order. His twin strikes in the fifth over removed Ackeem Auguste for 17 and Keacy Carty for a duck, setting the tone for another collapse. Kyle Jamieson added to the pressure by dismissing opener John Campbell, whose brisk 26 off 24 was one of only two innings above 25 for the visitors. Shai Hope showed promise but edged down the leg side for 16, giving Zak Foulkes—playing in place of the injured Nathan Smith—his first breakthrough, leaving West Indies reeling at 77 for 4.

New Zealand's quicks continued pounding the surface with cross-seam and scrambled-seam variations. Sherfane Rutherford, Roston Chase and Shamar Springer all succumbed to short-pitched bowling. Chase, who required treatment after being struck on the hand, eventually top-edged Henry to extra cover. A brief 18-run last-wicket stand between Khary Pierre and Jayden Seales offered some resistance before Henry sealed the innings.

Chasing a modest target, New Zealand stumbled early. Without injured No.1 ODI batter Daryl Mitchell, the hosts were reduced to 70 for 4 after losing their top three inside 11 overs and Tom Latham cheaply. But Mark Chapman's fluent 64 off 63 and Michael Bracewell's composed support turned the tide. Their 75-run partnership off 48 balls neutralised the new-ball threat and forced West Indies to shelve Pierre entirely, relegating him to fielding duties alone.

Although Chapman and Mitchell Santner fell near the finish, Bracewell and Foulkes guided New Zealand home with nearly 20 overs left, sealing another emphatic home-series triumph.

Wei Yi survives scare as both FIDE World Cup semifinals end in draws

GOA

With the ever-growing stakes at the FIDE World Cup 2025, sharing the spoils in the majority of the games as a pragmatic theme must not come as a surprise. China's Wei Yi and Russia's Andrey Esipenko agreed to a draw after 33 moves in their semifinal Game 1. The all-Uzbek clash between Nodirbek Yakubboev and Javokhir Sindarov also ended in a truce after 30 moves.

Although the game between Yakubboev and Sindarov saw little drama, Wei Yi had to escape from a dangerous attack by Esipenko under time pressure. Esipenko, playing Black in a French Defense, executed a solid plan that kept the position sharp and forced Wei Yi into long thinks, leaving the Chinese grandmaster with significantly less time on the clock.

Wei Yi responded with evasive manoeuvres to counter Esipenko's mounting pressure on both flanks. Coordinating his knight, rook, and bishop in harmony, he assisted his white queen in steering the game toward an equal endgame with level material.

Third CRPF cricket tournament begins in J&K

SRINAGAR

The third CRPF cricket tournament started on Saturday in J&K's Srinagar city as officials said all measures have been taken to ensure a peaceful and secure atmosphere in the city. Speaking to reporters at the start of the tournament, IG CRPF, P.K. Sharma, said that every possible measure has been taken to ensure a secure and peaceful atmosphere in Srinagar as the Third CRPF Cricket Tournament got underway.This tournament has been regularly held since 2023 in November and December. The tournament aims to engage the youth in order to promote sports and culture. Around 123 teams from Srinagar, Baramulla, and Ganderbal showed interest this year, but due to time constraints, a draw was held and sixteen teams were shortlisted for the tournament, the IG said.The tournament is being organised in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), while the University of Kashmir has provided the ground.

Head's 69-ball ton secures two-day win for Australia

ASHES AUSSIE REVIVAL

PERTH

England suffered a humiliating defeat in the opening Ashes Test on Saturday as Travis Head's explosive century powered Australia to a remarkable comeback win in Perth. In a match that lasted less than two days — the shortest Ashes Test since 1921 — Head delivered a whirlwind 69-ball hundred, the second-fastest in Ashes history. His unbeaten 123 propelled Australia to their fourth-innings target of 205 in just 28.2 overs, sealing an eight-wicket victory and a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series.

The contest had seemed to tilt England's way earlier in the day. Holding a 40-run first-innings lead, England extended their advantage to 105 when they reached 65 for 1 shortly after lunch. But what followed was a dramatic and decisive collapse. Mitchell Starc, who claimed a superb 10-wicket match haul, ripped through England's batting order during a devastating phase. England lost six wickets for 39 runs in 11 overs, including a brutal sequence where Ollie Pope, Harry Brook and Joe Root all fell within six balls without a run added.

Despite a short-lived fightback from Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse — who put together a fifty partnership — England were dismissed for 164 in just 34.4 overs, losing their final nine wickets for 99. Poor shot selection, combined with incisive Australian bowling and an aggressive tactical move to promote Head up the order, deepened England's ongoing struggles on Australian soil. They have now lost 14 out of 16 Tests in the country since 2011.

Australia's chase, which could have been tricky, turned into a one-sided spectacle. Head dismantled England's attack that had dominated the previous day, thrilling the Perth crowd and eliminating any hope of a final-day contest. The only suspense that remained was whether the match would stretch into day three, Head ensured it did not.

Norris takes Las Vegas GP pole after wet qualifying

LAS VEGAS : Lando Norris claimed pole position for the Las Vegas Grand Prix, the McLaren driver and Drivers' Championship leader mastering wet conditions to finish ahead of Max Verstappen and Carlos Sainz while title rival Oscar Piastri settled for fifth. It marks three consecutive pole positions for Norris, whose 1m 47.934s was nearly three-tenths faster than Verstappen during a Qualifying session which remained wet throughout.

Williams' Sainz put in another strong Qualifying performance and finished ahead of George Russell, the Mercedes driver having topped both Q1 and Q2 sessions in the worst of the conditions. Piastri was left in fifth having gone into the run-off area at Turn 12 on his final effort after going wheel-to-wheel with Isack Hadjar's Racing Bulls. The second Racing Bulls machine of Liam Lawson finished P6, as the top-10 was completed by Fernando Alonso's Aston Martin, Hadjar, Charles Leclerc's Ferrari, which also ran deep at Turn 12 on his final effort, and Pierre Gasly's Alpine. Kick Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg missed the cut for Q3 after finishing P11 in the middle segment of Qualifying, ahead of Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), the two Haas' of Esteban Ocon and Ollie Bearman, as well as Alpine's Franco Colapinto. Alex Albon was eliminated in Q1 after hitting the barrier on the exit of Turn 16 in the final minutes which broke.

First-look poster ignites buzz for Do Deewane Seher Mein

SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
MRUNAL THAKUR
Z STUDIOS
RANCORP MEDIA AND
BHANSALI PRODUCTIONS PRESENT
Do Deewane Seher Mein
DIRECTED BY RAVI UDYAWAR
IN CINEMAS 20TH FEB. 2026
PRODUCED BY SANJAY LEELA BHANSALI, PRERNA SINGH,
UMESH KUMAR BANSAL, BHARAT KUMAR RANGA
CO-PRODUCED BY KALPANA UDYAWAR IN ASSOCIATION WITH RAVI UDYAWAR FILMS
NETFLIX

Bollywood's 2026 romance line-up has gained fresh excitement with the release of the first-look poster of Do Deewane Seher Mein. Produced by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Zee Studios, the film pairs Siddhant Chaturvedi and Mrunal Thakur for the first time, promising a lively and heartfelt on-screen chemistry. The movie is scheduled to hit cinemas on February 20, 2026, perfectly timed for Valentine's Week.

The poster captures the film's warm and cosy tone. Siddhant and Mrunal sit together on a wicker chair, surrounded by greenery and soft golden light, sharing a gentle moment. The makers describe the story as an "imperfectly perfect love story," mixing old-school romantic charm with modern emotional depth. Their tender pose hints at a soulful bond that is likely to drive the film's narrative.

Directed by MOM fame Ravi Udyawar, this project marks one of the rare instances where Bhansali has handed over a romantic drama to another filmmaker. With Bhansali Productions known for visually rich and emotional storytelling, and Udyawar praised for his detailed, sensitive direction, the collaboration is expected to blend style with genuine human emotion. The film is produced by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Prerna Singh, Umesh Kumar Bansal, and Bharat Kumar Ranga, with Kalpana Udyawar co-producing under Ravi Udyawar Films.

RAASHII KHANNA says Tholi Prema changed her career

Actress Raashii Khanna has opened up about her artistic journey, sharing how a few key films shaped the way audiences look at her today, The Telusu Kada star reflected on the early years of her career and the turning points that helped her grow as a performer.

Raashii recalled that her debut in Madras Café first made people notice her acting ability. However, she said that soon after the film, she was mostly offered commercial roles that did not allow her to explore her full range as an artist. According to her, this phase made her feel boxed into a certain image, limiting the kind of characters she hoped to portray.

Everything changed with Tholi Prema, which Raashii considers one of the most meaningful projects of her career. She said the film helped audiences reconnect with her talent and understand that she could do far more than glamorous or routine roles. "Tholi Prema made people see the actor in me," she said, calling it a film that not only changed public perception but also revived her own confidence.

Raashii added that after Tholi Prema, she began receiving more performance-heavy roles in Telugu cinema. Her recent work in Telusu Kada was widely appreciated, further proving her ability to take on emotional and challenging characters.

KEERTHISWARAN criticised for harsh response to influencer

Debut filmmaker Keerthiswaran, who recently earned praise for his hit film Dude starring Pradeep Ranganathan and Mamitha Baiju, is now facing backlash online for an unpleasant response he sent to an Instagram influencer who shared her criticism of the movie.

Influencer Roshini Karthikeyan had posted a screenshot of her private conversation with the director, which later spread across social media even after she deleted it from her stories. In the screenshot, Roshini had offered her honest opinion about the film, saying she shared the feedback as a paying viewer. However, Keerthiswaran replied with laughter emojis and wrote, "Go and have some life rather than sliding into my DMs."

Roshini said she expected a young filmmaker to welcome feedback, but his reaction felt dismissive and unprofessional. She added that the response "speaks volumes" about how he handles criticism and reflects poorly on his mindset.

The screenshot quickly went viral on X, where several users criticised the director's tone. Many called his message "rude" and "cheap," saying he should have responded respectfully. Some said the influencer's question was polite, while his reply was unnecessary. One user commented that he should have a "healthy view towards women," and others even compared his attitude to director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's approach to criticism.

Keerthiswaran has not responded publicly to the controversy so far. Dude, which released on October 17, has earned ₹113.25 crore worldwide and is currently streaming on Netflix.

MAHESH BABU set to unveil NC24 first look today

Excitement is building in Tollywood as the makers of Naga Chaitanya's upcoming mythical thriller, currently titled NC24, announced a major update. Superstar Mahesh Babu, known as the "Globetrotter," will reveal the film's official title and first-look poster on November 23 (today) at 10:08 a.m., marking a special birthday surprise for Chaitanya.

The production team shared the news with a striking teaser poster that shows Mahesh Babu and Naga Chaitanya in silhouette, hinting at an adventurous and mysterious tone. Their announcement read, "Who better than the Globetrotter to introduce the Treasure Hunter to this world," suggesting an exciting character reveal for Chaitanya.

NC24 features Meenakshi Chaudhary in the lead role, adding fresh appeal to the cast. Actor Sparsh Shrivastava, known for Laapataa Ladies, will take on the antagonist's role, bringing a new dynamic to the story. The film is directed by Karthik Dandu, who gained recognition for his work on Virupaksha.

Backed by SVCC and Sukumar Writings, the project is being made on a high budget, signalling a large-scale cinematic experience filled with mythical elements and thrilling action.

With Mahesh Babu unveiling the first look, fans are eagerly waiting to see what the film has in store. The birthday reveal has already created a buzz online, making NC24 one of the most watched upcoming titles in Telugu cinema.

Balakrishna confirms Son Mokshagna's debut film

The long wait surrounding the debut of Nandamuri Mokshagna Teja, son of veteran star Nandamuri Balakrishna, continues to draw attention among fans and the industry. Speculation has been high for years, with many eager to see when and how he would enter Telugu cinema.

Mokshagna was first expected to debut in a film directed by Prasanth Varma. Although the project was officially launched, it was eventually shelved, leaving fans uncertain about his next move. The discussions only grew louder as time passed, with no clear plans revealed.

Balakrishna has now put the rumours to rest. Speaking at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, he confirmed that Mokshagna's debut will be the long-awaited sequel to Aditya 369. Titled Aditya 999 Max, the film will mark the official launch of the young actor. He also clarified that no alternative project is being considered at the moment.

Industry sources say director Krish is currently developing the script and handling pre-production work for the film. With Mokshagna now 31, many believe the project needs to move forward soon to ensure a strong and timely introduction.

BHAGYASHRI BORSE says AKT's love story feels divine

Actress Bhagyashri Borse, who recently won praise for her role in Dulquer Salmaan's Kaantha, is now gearing up for her next big release, Andhra King Taluka. Starring Ram Pothineni in the lead, the film will hit cinemas worldwide on November 27, 2025. Bhagyashri shared her excitement about the project. She plays Mahalaxmi, a college-going girl whose role, she said, holds great importance in the story. "My character in AKT is quite significant to the narrative. It's a character the audience will remember for a long time," she said.

Bhagyashri revealed that she connected instantly with the script when director Mahesh Babu P narrated it to her. She recalled how moving from North India to the South showed her the deep love fans have for their stars. "Loving someone so much without any personal connection is a beautiful and divine emotion," she said.

The actress described the film's love story as "pure and soulful," comparing its emotional depth to the feeling expressed in songs like "Nuvvunte Chaley" and "Chinni Gundelo." She believes audiences will feel the same heartfelt connection between the lead pair.

Sharing her experience working with Ram Pothineni, Bhagyashri said he is a highly energetic performer. "I think I matched his energy well. The love story and dialogues between us are beautifully written," she added. Also featuring Kannada actor Upendra in a key role, Andhra King Taluka is a rural period love story set in the early 2000s, produced by Mythri Movie Makers with music by Vivek and Mervin.

SHRADDHA injured while shooting Eetha dance

Actress Shraddha Kapoor suffered a fractured toe while shooting a Lavani dance sequence for her upcoming film Eetha, directed by Laxman Utekar. The biopic, based on the life of legendary dancer and Tamasha artiste Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar, has been temporarily halted due to the injury.

According to sources, the accident occurred while Shraddha was performing a traditional Lavani number composed by Ajay-Atul. Wearing a vibrant Nauvari saree, heavy jewellery, and a kamarpatta, the actor had gained over 15 kilos to portray Vithabai authentically. The fast-paced steps, in sync with the beats of the dholki, led her to lose balance and put all her weight on her left foot, resulting in the fracture.

Director Laxman Utekar immediately called off the shoot, but Shraddha suggested continuing with close-up and emotional sequences that didn't strain her foot. Filming resumed briefly at a set in Madh Island, Mumbai. However, after a couple of days, her pain worsened, forcing the production team to pause again. The unit plans to regroup in two weeks once she has fully recovered.

Theft spree hits Travis Scott's Mumbai concert

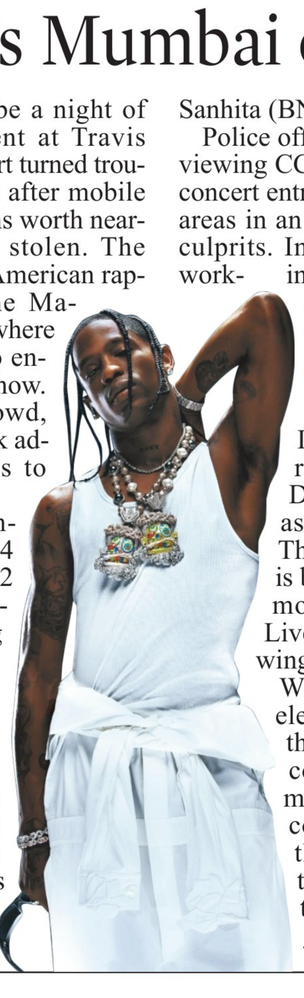
What was meant to be a night of music and excitement at Travis Scott's Mumbai concert turned troubling for several fans after mobile phones and gold chains worth nearly Rs 18 lakh were stolen. The Grammy-nominated American rapper performed at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse, where thousands gathered to enjoy his high-energy show. Amid the packed crowd, thieves reportedly took advantage of the chaos to steal valuables.

According to Mumbai Police, at least 24 mobile phones and 12 gold chains were reported missing during the event. Many distressed concert-goers visited the Tardeo police station soon after the show to file complaints. A case has been registered against an unknown person under Sections 303(2) and 304 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Police officials have begun reviewing CCTV footage from the concert entrance and surrounding areas in an effort to identify the culprits. Investigators are also working to track the stolen devices and recover the valuable items.

The Mumbai concert was part of Travis Scott's CIRCUS MAXIMUS World Tour. The rapper had performed in Delhi earlier this month as part of the same tour. The India leg of the event is being produced and promoted by BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment wing of BookMyShow.

While fans enjoyed the electrifying performance, the theft spree has raised concerns about security measures at large-scale concerts in the city. Authorities are urging attendees to remain cautious as the investigation continues.



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